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LD041419 [Editorial Report]

Gulf Conflict

Iraqi Raids—A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced new raids on Iran 4 November, stating that Iraqi warplanes hit three targets in the "extremely important" Pazanan oil fields, raided a television relay station in Taheri, and attacked a large maritime target near the Iranian coast. IRNA reported that an Iraqi pilot was captured after his aircraft was downed by antiaircraft fire over the Kordestan region.

Iranian Policy—A "week of preparedness to confront U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf" will begin 5 November, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani announced in a speech broadcast by Tehran radio. Speaking at a 4 November rally marking the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy, Hashemi-Rafsanjani added that Iran will mobilize all its capabilities during this week so that the United States will realize it made a "big mistake" in adopting a show of force in the Gulf. According to IRNA, "millions" of Iranians participated in the anti-U.S. demonstrations.

In another development, the head of Iran's War Information Headquarters stated that Iranian naval units will give immediate assistance to any cargo ship or tanker that is "targetted" by U.S. forces and calls for help, according to IRNA. The official viewed the 1 November U.S. "attack" on an Arab-owned launch as evidence that the United States is trying to disrupt shipping in an attempt to expand its military presence in the region.

Kuwaiti Defense—Kuwait is in direct contact with Western and Soviet arms manufacturers to obtain specialist arms for use against Iranian missiles, Defense Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah noted in a statement to KUNA, though he admitted that Kuwait may have difficulty in finding an effective weapon that its forces can master in a short time. He also disclosed that Kuwait is manufacturing "complementary" equipment for repelling missile attacks, and spoke of "some other matters and preparations which are military secrets." Regarding the GCC's Saudi-based "Peninsula Shield" force, Shaykh Salim said this force will not hesitate to come to Kuwait if asked, and he disclosed that Kuwait has been "on the verge" of calling for its assistance.

Saudi Arabia

Summit Delegation—Crown Prince 'Abdallah will head the Saudi delegation to the Arab summit instead of King Fahd, the Royal Court announced in a statement carried by SPA.

Libyan Charges—The SPA political editor rejected Libyan charges that Saudi Arabia purchased U.S. and French arms for use against Libya, SPA reported. Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi made the allegations in a 2 November news conference broadcast by Tripoli television in which he said Saudi Arabia was "revealed to be financing the war in Chad."

Libya

Armed Forces Commander in Chief Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir met with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega in Moscow, Tripoli Television noted. The two, who are heading their countries' delegations to the Soviet revolution anniversary celebrations, discussed bilateral relations and mutual cooperation.

Syria

Chairing the first meeting of his new cabinet, President Hafiz al-Asad stressed the need to improve living conditions and production quality and urged self-reliance and national initiative, Damascus radio reported.

PLO

PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat held talks with CPSU General Secretary Mikhail Gorbachev and other senior Soviet officials during his visit to Moscow to attend the 70th anniversary of the October Revolution, Algiers Voice of Palestine radio reported. The talks focused on the latest developments on the Palestinian issue and steps taken toward holding an international conference, the radio said, noting that the Soviets reaffirmed their support for PLO participation in such a conference.

Khalil al-Wazir, the PLO's deputy military commander, met with GDR Defense Minister Heinz Kessler in East Berlin, ADN noted. Al-Wazir had earlier held talks with PSP leader Walid Junblatt and other Lebanese leftist leaders in Algiers, according to Beirut radio.

Afghanistan

Party and state leader Najibullah, who is in Moscow attending the Soviet revolution anniversary celebrations, had a "friendly talk" with Mikhail Gorbachev on Afghanistan's national reconciliation policy and the return of the Soviet troops stationed in the DRA, TASS noted.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab League Office Criticizes Chirac Remarks

LD032114 Kuwait KUNA in English 1837 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Paris, Nov 3 (KUNA)—The Arab League office here Tuesday criticized statements by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac in Israel in which he demanded the Syrian Government to facilitate the migration of Syrian Jews.

A statement by the office said Chirac undermined the French Middle East policy which could have played an important role in advancing the peace process in the region.

"The recent visit of the French foreign minister to Damascus was a source of relief to all Arab countries and all Arabs living in France...but Chirac's statement threw shadows of uncertainty of a real reconciliation between Paris and Damascus.

"While his visit to Israel coincided with a vicious campaign by the Israeli occupation authorities against Arabs of which seven Palestinians were victim of, we were expecting Chirac to demand the Israelis to respect the human rights of Palestinians on their land."

The statement said "we were surprised that the French Syrian relations reached a point where a third party must be pleased."

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Visits Moscow, Talks With Gorbachev

LD032247 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Brother leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces, is currently on an official visit to Moscow. He is accompanied by an important Palestinian delegation, which includes a number of PLO Executive Committee members.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar and his accompanying delegation participated with the peoples of the Soviet Union and the Soviet leadership in their celebrations of the 70th anniversary of the Great October Revolution yesterday.

Our radio correspondent in Moscow has reported that brother leader Abu 'Ammar has held a series of talks with a number of senior Soviet party and state officials, at the forefront of whom was Soviet leader Gorbachev.

The radio correspondent added that the Soviet-Palestinian talks had focused on the latest developments in the Palestinian issue and the steps taken toward convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East. The Soviet side reiterated to Brother Abu 'Ammar its stance, which supports the holding of such an international peace conference with the participation of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and all the parties concerned in the Arab-Zionist conflict, particularly the PLO.

The radio correspondent also reported that the Soviet-Palestinian talks had included current developments on the Palestinian and Arab arenas, as well as the emergency Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman on the 8th of this month. Soviet-Palestinian relations were reviewed as well.

Brother leader Abu 'Ammar expressed appreciation for the firm and principled stands of the friendly Soviet Union, which support the just struggle being waged by the Palestinian people to restore all of their legitimate rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state.

South Asia Regional Affairs

SAARC Summit Proceedings Continue in Nepal

Bangladesh President's Speech

BK031151 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1105 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Address by Bangladesh President Hussain Mohammad Ershad at the inaugural session of Third SAARC Summit in Kathmandu—live]

[Text] Mr Chairman, Your Majesty and Your Excellencies, the heads of the state and government, distinguished delegates and friends: I am happy indeed to be here in this picturesque capital city of Kathmandu set against the awesome majesty of the mighty Himalayas with its moving chronicles of great triumphs of a brave people over the elemental challenges of nature. For, we are gathered here to talk essentially about strategies to improve the quality of life of our peoples in the SAARC countries in a spirit of warm togetherness against all odds of gigantic proportion. I am sure, very few locales could be as appropriate as Kathmandu to remind us of our lofty goals and also of the difficult terrains that we have to traverse to reach them. It is a matter of proud privilege and great satisfaction for my delegation and for me personally to congratulate Your Majesty on your assumption of the chairmanship of our association. The occasion marks a milestone in the onward journey of the SAARC. You bring to this office your vast and varied experience and a deep understanding of our region and the problems and issues that confront us. Under your wise and able guidance, our meeting is assured of a successful conclusion and our association will continue to march ahead steadily and confidently.

Mr Chairman, I would like to take this opportunity to express our deepest appreciation to His Excellency Mr Rajiv Gandhi, the prime minister of India, for his most

successful stewardship of our association during a crucial year for the SAARC. It has been a period of consolidation and has marked the beginning of a transition to a more fruitful and tangible form of cooperation. Mr Rajiv Gandhi has rendered a great service to our association and we are indeed grateful to him.

May I, before proceeding further, say that we have been overwhelmed by the warmth of reception accorded to us on arrival and for the generous hospitality extended to us since then. On behalf of my delegation, my wife, and on my personal behalf, I would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks.

Majesties, excellencies, delegates and guests, we are aware of the havoc caused by the recent floods in Bangladesh. The damages caused by this worst natural disaster in history have been enormous. There is hardly any sector of the economy which has not been affected. Your response during this period of crisis has been remarkably generous and a great source of courage and inspiration for us. I bring with me the deepest sense of gratitude of my government and the people of my country to the peoples and governments of your majesties and excellencies. Let me assure you we are deeply touched. We have been reassured of the enormous value of our fraternity and solidarity within our association.

Disasters of this nature, you would agree, are nothing new, nor is Bangladesh a lone victim. Floods, cyclones, tornadoes, droughts, landslides are so frequent and so universal in our region that these now seem to have become a part of the harsh reality of our existence. During the last year and this year, India experienced the most severe drought of the century, Nepal was ravaged with floods and landslides, Maldives suffered from severe tidal waves, Bhutan was agonized by landslides, to mention only a few. The need to manage natural disasters to relieve the appalling conditions of the teeming millions in the length and breadth of the region is almost patent. It is our own personal experience that such events bring us closer to each other and bonds of solidarity are forged best in suffering. I took particular interest in a seminar on disaster management held recently in India. This particular SAARC event was most timely and I believe the recommendations put forward are extremely valuable for the management of disaster in our region in future. This deserves particular attention. I intend to add in this context that any action planned for disaster management, and for that matter any international response for relief and rehabilitation, has its limitations, as they are mostly related to emergencies of one kind or another. Disasters to which our region are prone are but a visible tip of iceberg, of deeper and more complex problems. It is scenes of death and suffering, reappearing with monotonous regularity. As in recent years, [words indistinct] top attention has to be focused on more and more comprehensive and long-term responses to these deep-rooted problems themselves and not just to one or other of the various syndromes, like floods or droughts each time they [words indistinct]. The ultimate mission of disaster management, I would like to emphasize, is much more than just to provide temporary relief and respite to salvage the people who are immediately stricken. The challenge is to create such long-term conditions as would abolish the scourges of these calamities from our region, so that the need to provide temporary relief may no more haunt us every now and then, and this I believe is within our reach if we look at the problem from a multidimensional point of view.

I believe it is time that we examined the possibilities of undertaking some SAARC-sponsored feasibility studies for a comprehensive plan of not merely management of disaster, but also of its prevention at the root. Let us, for instance, aim at turning the Himalayan resources into the lifeline of our regional development efforts. What I have in mind is a plan for multipurpose Himalayan water resources development covering such areas as flood control, irrigation, navigation, hydroelectic power generation, municipal industrial water supply, fish and wildlife protection, recreation, and water quality control. A proposal like this obviously takes a long time to plan and even longer to implement. This is the reason why the matter needs immediate attention. Over a billion people and many more to come need protection from the ravages. We would be blamed by the posterity if we fail to take the decision now.

Mr Chairman, another serious challenge that needs to be transformed into a big opportunity is derived from the continued world economic crises created and continuously aggravated by a needlessly hierarchical world order. The impact of this has been particularly harsh on the economies of the developing world. Mounting erosion in multilateralism, growth of protectionism, and sharp decline in official development assistance continue to be detrimental to the aspirations of the developing countries, particularly in the context of their increasing balance of payment difficulties and the debt burden.

The countries of our region could not remain isolated from this prolonged crisis. It is time that we develop the will and imagination to make out a comprehensive long-term joint strategy to face it. Our effort to strengthen cooperation under SAARC, I am sure, would take us closer to the goal of collective self-reliance. The areas that we have brought into the agenda of SAARC cooperation are very important. Consolidation of whatever has been achieved and gradual incorporation of more concrete and result-oriented activities would be catalytic in strengthening the foundations of collective self-reliance. We have already recognized the need for the shift of emphasis in favor of such activities that would make the benefits of regional cooperation more tangible and more accessible to the common people. I am happy to note that the reports of the Council of Ministers, the Standing Committee, and others indeed reflect genuine effort in that direction.

Mr Chairman, what we have sought to do by your cooperative endeavors is to make use of deliberate and planned efforts to strengthen economic and other linkages among ourselves more rapidly than would be the case if such links were left to be determined by the forces of market. Our endeavors should reinforce and supplement similar efforts being made on the bilateral plane. For optimum benefits from such efforts, we should gradually expand cooperation to cover some of the core areas of our economic activities. It might be worthwhile to examine how interaction in the core areas within SAARC would yield visible and equitable benefit to all member countries. We might, at this stage, consider undertaking certain objective studies to that effect. I understand that at the academic level, some valuable research and studies have been carried out by our scholars. We might draw upon the findings of such studies. The SAARC Secretariat, I believe, could also be entrusted to undertake appropriate studies and consultations in this regard and make recommendations to the Council of Ministers. The Secretariat has been in operation for about a year now and it has already done a commendable job in discharging responsibilities that have been given to it. The purpose, I might emphasize, is not to aim at any prior conclusion, but to explore and spell out all possible implications with absolute objectivity and independent thinking.

Here, Mr Chairman, I like to commend the Secretariat for so effectively and efficiently organizing its work within the given resources in such a short time. I would like to specially congratulate Secretary General Ambassador Abul Ahsan and his staff for the efforts they have put in and I wish to see them play an increasingly dynamic role in the furtherance of the goals of our cooperative endeavors.

Distinguished colleagues, you would recall that in our meetings in Bangalore last year, we emphasized that children should be given the highest priority in our national development planning. I am happy to mention that we in Bangladesh have taken a number of major steps. Recently, we have formed a National Children and Women's Welfare Council. The high-powered council attached to the President's Secretariat will formulate policy and initiate, coordinate, and implement all programs and schemes aimed at the welfare of the child and mother. We are also examining the need for determining the effectiveness of existing laws in institutions in this regard. We recognize that meeting the needs of the children is the most valuable investment for the future and it is our sacred responsibility to work jointly for enhancing world's public awareness toward attaining universal political consensus on the rights of the children. I take this opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to contribute in all possible ways to the conclusion and adoption [of] the United Nations convention on the rights of the child. May I propose that in our Kathmandu declaration we incorporate an appeal to the international community for adoption of the convention by 1989, the 10th anniversary of the International Year of the Child, the 30th anniversary of the adoption of the declaration on the rights of the child.

Mr Chairman, the progress that we have achieved in our cooperative endeavors is surely a matter of satisfaction to all of us. Our programs of short-term activities are definitely working well and I am sure there is enormous scope for consolidation of the foundations of our association through greater focus on activities, which are of long-term nature and directly result-oriented. I am happy to note that in almost every area of our agreed cooperation, certain long-term projects and programs are coming up. We should, I think, take all possible measures to implement such programs. The progress on the proposed food security reserve is a matter of satisfaction to all of us. The importance of the reserve for our region needs no emphasis indeed, and I am sure its launching is yet another concrete manifestation of what SAARC can achieve for the welfare of our peoples.

Mr Chairman, we have deliberately kept political issues, including those at the bilateral level, outside our agenda of cooperation. May I however add that during the past 2 years, our SAARC journey has certainly, albeit informally, addressed issues that have concern to us internationally, regionally, and even bilaterally. We cannot, of course, deviate from our commitments enshrined in our charter, particularly, the respect for the principles of sovereign equality, territorial integrity, national independence, nonuse of force, and noninterference in internal affairs of other states, and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Mutual understanding, good-neighborly relations and a meaningful cooperation are, of necessity, complementary, and we are committed to promote these for the sake of peace, freedom, social justice, and economic prosperity in our region. Our commitment to SAARC is unequivocal, our commitment to this principle is total.

Mr Chairman, from the very inception we had conceptually opted for a steady and graduated strategy and approach in respect of SAARC. We believe, and rightly so, that spectacular beginnings could be elusive and even self-defeating. We thus thought it is best to progress step by step to consolidate the gains already achieved before we moved onto the next phase. Our first phase was one of the laying and strengthening the foundations of our association. At Bangalore, we arrived at a consensus about a future emphasis and strategy. I have every confidence that under your dynamic leadership we would now move swiftly, vigorously, and in solidarity toward the stage when the fruits of our collective efforts should begin to reach our peoples. To the attainment of this objective, may I assure you, Mr Chairman, of the wholehearted cooperation and support of my government and people. Thank you. [applause]

Leaders Hold Informal Discussions

BK031157 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, and the Sri Lankan President, Mr Jayewardene, held talks in Kathmandu last night. The two leaders are expected to meet again today. Talks between them are to be continued in New Delhi on Thursday during Mr Jayewardene's stay there on his way home.

Earlier this morning, Mr Rajiv Gandhi had a meeting with King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan. They are believed to have exchanged views on various issues facing the summit, besides bilateral relations, particularly in the economic field.

Meanwhile, the leaders of seven SAARC countries held informal discussions this morning. They exchanged views on different issues before the summit. The AIR correspondent, Harish Segon, says this morning's exchange of views is considered to be of major significance as it provides the leaders an opportunity for a free discussion on matters of substance. The session concludes tomorrow.

Summit Documents Signed

BK040936 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] The third SAARC summit concluded in Kathmandu today after signing a regional convention on suppression of terrorism. The agreement on setting up the Southeast Asia [as heard] food security reserve was also signed. The AIR special correspondent, Harish Segon, reports from the conference venue that the seven SAARC leaders described their signing of these documents as a historic step and landmark in their collective endeavor to eliminate terrorism and hunger from the region.

The summit adopted the Kathmandu declaration providing a renewed thrust and direction to the future course of regional cooperation in South Asia. Another important decision taken by the SAARC leaders related to the commissioning of a study of natural disaster and the protection and preservation of the environment. The summit accepted the recommendation of the Council of Ministers on the question of admission of new members in the association as guest and observer status. [sentence as heard] The Standing Committee will examine this and also the aspect of establishing relations with other organizations.

It was decided that the next SAARC summit will be held in Sri Lanka. Pakistan will host the fifth SAARC summit in 1989.

Our correspondent Ratan Salve reports that the SAARC leaders have expressed their concern over the reverse flow of resources from the developing to the developed countries. They underlined the urgent need for resumption of the North-South dialogue. The SAARC leaders called for early convening of the international conference on money and finance for development.

The leaders also expressed their serious concern at the deteriorating international political environment. They called for an early conclusion of a comprehensive test ban treaty and the convening of a convention to ban chemical weapons. They welcomed the understanding reached between the United States and the Soviet Union on intermediate nuclear missiles. The SAARC leaders urged the two superpowers to reduce drastically their strategic nuclear weapons and to refrain from extending the arms race to outer space.

Algeria

PLO, Lebanese Officials Meet in Algiers

Birri Cited on Talks

LD021155 Algiers APS in English 1015 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, 2/11/87 (APS)—Amal Movement President Nabih Birri affirmed Sunday here that by inviting a Lebanese delegation to the festivities of the 33rd anniversary of the revolution is in itself a support to the Lebanese nationalist forces because it puts an end to their disputes with the Palestinian forces.

In a statement made after a delegation of the Lebanese national movement was received by President Chadli Bendjedid, Nabih Birri also added that this invitation "constitutes a firm position against the Israeli plan in the occupied south Lebanon. It also represents a support to the Lebanese resistance in the south."

On his part, Walid Junblatt, president of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party, reiterated the call to Algeria to carry on its efforts for the (?unification) [words indistinct] nationalist ranks in order to iron out the dispute opposing them to the Palestinians. "We shall make the necessary efforts, he carried on, to recover the Lebanese-Palestinian unity with a view to facing all angers and preserve the Arabity of Lebanon."

Muhsin Ibrahim, secretary general of the Organization of Communist Action, thanked the Algerian revolution leadership, and (?President) Chadli Bendjedid who encouraged us, to progress towards unity of the Lebanese nationalist forces and the reinforcement of the joint struggle with the Palestinian resistance.

Birri, Hawatimah Finish Talks

JN032020 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov

[Text] There is relative optimism in Lebanon on ending the camps war following the agreement reached in Algiers by Amal and the Palestinians.

It has been learned in Algiers that DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah and Amal leader Nabih Birri held the last round of talks today. During their meeting they drew up a timetable for the implementation of the 11 September agreement on ending the camps war in Lebanon.

DFLP sources say that Nayif Hawatimah met with Mustafa Sa'd [leader of the Nasirite Popular Organization in Sidon] and leaders of the Lebanese nationalist parties and they approved practical steps to implement the agreement. They also agreed that Mustafa Sa'd will call for a meeting of the higher committee—which comprises the unified Palestinian delegation, the Unification and Liberation Front, and Amal—in Sidon within the next 48 hours. They agreed to immediately begin sending supplies and medicine into the refugee camps and building materials to schools and hospitals, and to separate practical humanitarian affairs from purely military affairs east of Sidon. It was also agreed that PSP leader Walid Junblatt will, in cooperation with Mustafa Sa'd and the leaders of the nationalist parties, determine the alternative places east of Sidon where the Palestinian force will be deployed in accordance with the lines defined on 24 October, DFLP sources said.

Bendjedid Meets With DFLP Secretary General

LD021226 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid met today with Mr Nayif Hawatimah, secretary general of the DFLP. They discussed support for the Palestinian cause in Arab and international arenas.

Mr Hawatimah then made the following statement: We have learned from the Algerian revolution that national unity is the first and fundamental condition for victory. We have hailed President Chadli Bendjedid's initiative in inviting the Lebanese national forces and the Palestinian revolution to meet in Algeria in order to end the camps war and normalize Palestinian-patriotic Lebanese relations, so that we can unite in the common struggle against the Zionist enemy.

Bendjedid Praises Relations with Libya

LD030038 Tripoli JANA in English 1810 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 2, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—President Chadli Bendjedid praised the strong deep-rooted fraternal relations that bind together the Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Algeria.

During his reception to a delegation of Libyan Arab "Mujahidin", taking part in the celebration of the Arab people of sisterly Algeria commemorating the 33rd anniversary of its revolution last night, he said: "Algeria will never forget the role of the Arab people in Libya and its active contributions to support the Algerian revolution during the peoples war of liberation".

Assembly President Meets Libyan Envoy

LD040608 Tripoli JANA in English 1746 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [Nov] 3, (JANA)—Mr. Rabih Bitat, member of the Politburo and president of the Algerian National Assembly, has met Mr. Sa'd Mujbir, secretary of the Libyan Arab Brotherhood Bureau in Algeria.

Mr. Mujbir has conveyed to Mr. Bitat the congratulation of the Libyan Arab people and the Secretariat of the General People's Congress of the Arab people to the Arab people in Algeria on the 33rd anniversary of the outbreak of the Algerian people's revolution.

At this meeting, the two sides have discussed ways of promoting the brotherly unionist cooperation between the Arab people in Great Jamahiriyah and Algeria.

Iraqi Envoy Arrives in Algiers With Message

JN021419 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1302 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, 2 Nov (INA)—Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, RCC member and President Saddam Husayn's envoy to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, arrived here today. He told the INA correspondent that he carries a written message from President Saddam Husayn to Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid dealing with the current Arab situation, particularly the emergency Arab summit conference to be held in Amman on Sunday [8 November].

Two Officials Depart on Foreign Visits

LD021119 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Algiers, 2/11/87 (APS)—President Chadli Bendjedid received Sunday here the head of the CC Permanent Secretariat Mohamed Cherif Messaadia on the eve of his departure to Moscow.

Messaadia will represent Algeria to the commemorative festivities of the 70th anniversary of the Revolution of October.

On another turn, President Bendjedid received the state minister before the presidency, Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani before his departure to Nouakchott (Mauritania). Abdelghani is bearing a message from President Bendjedid to the Mauritanian head of state, the Lieutenant-Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya.

BRIEFS

Minutes Signed With Libya

The visit to Algeria by a Libyan delegation of vocational training officials, which began 20 October, has culminated in the signing of minutes at the Ministry of Professional Training and Labor. These minutes, implementing the resolutions of the third Algerian-Libyan mixed executive committee which met in Algiers last June, embody the will of the two countries to strengthen fraternal cooperation in vocational training and labor. This is a partial implementation of the joint program for training and improving the standard of instructors and teaching programs on various levels. [Excerpts] *[Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 31 Oct 87 LD]*

Chad

Libyan Air Forces Flies Over Wour 31 Oct

AB311946 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] The Libyan Air Force continues to provoke Chad in violation of the cease-fire requested by the OAU. Libyan aircraft thus flew over the town of Wour at 0500 and later at 0900.

Zoumri, Zouar Overflights Noted

AB032152 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 2130 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] In spite of the expiration of the deadline for submitting documents on the border conflict between Chad and Tripoli, and particularly in spite of the resolutions passed in Lusaka by the OAU ad hoc committee on a cease-fire for settling this dispute peacefully, Libya continues to violate Chadian airspace. Today, 3 November, the Libyan Air Force flew over Zoumri at 0200 0230, and 0430. It also flew over Zouar at 0900.

This Libyan attitude clearly demonstrates Tripoli's determination not to abandon its annexationist aims in Chad. For its part, Chad will spare no effort to face any aggression, regardless of where it may come from.

Commentary Views Libyan 'Hirelings', Warns Sudan

AB311001 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 0530 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] Libya's obstinate and frenzied actions against Chad continue unabated. Each hour that passes displays new developments showing that Tripoli does not wish to see reason. Libyan forces, who were badly defeated on the northern front by the FANT, are now trying to open a new front east of Chad with the active connivance of the Sudanese Government. In fact, Darfur Province has now lived according to the tempo of the Libyan Army for a few days. The region falls under the authority of a Libyan delegate who enforces Al-Qadhdhafi's laws. More and more oppressive atrocities are inflicted on the people now that they have demonstrated against the Libyan invasion several times. Al-Qadhdhafi's troops are preparing their new aggressive strategy against Chad.

Exactly 1 week ago, Darfur's local officials intercepted a sizable shipment of military equipment secretly brought into the region by dozens of mercenaries wearing civilian clothes. These hirelings were planning to join the thousands of other mercenaries of all nationalities that have been given powerful weapons and sent to our eastern border. The clear instructions they have received order them to deceive our vigilant forces and attack our country. This Libyan column was first stopped and held back by local officials in Darfur. However, it was later allowed to continue towards Chad after Khartoum

ordered these authorities to allow the Libyan hordes to pass without even being searched. As can be seen, the Tripoli-Khartoum collusion is developing into a vast, sinister conspiracy against Chad, and certainly as well against the people of Darfur, who continue to voice their dissatisfaction with Libyan imperialism.

The media campaign launched a few days ago alleging that the Chadian Army launched an incursion against Sudanese villages is only a pitiable smoke screen designed to conceal Al-Qadhdhafi's fresh adventure to the east of Chad. Come what may, the FANT forces are, naturally, ready as usual to strike enemies, wherever they are found, should they threaten the security of the Chadian people or violate our national borders. The mission of our forces is not to threaten Sudanese villagers. The FANT is not composed of mercenaries, but it will adequately ensure the security of the Chadian people.

Darfur has now become a zone of heavy agitation caused by the Libyan military (?presence). The Sudanese regime, to conceal the deterioration of the situation in this region, has expelled representatives of all international organizations considered embarassing witnesses to its policy of repression and submission. Once again, world opinion will not be fooled by Al-Qadhdhafi and his accomplices in the Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi government in their dangerous game. After rejecting the international verdict on its conflict with Chad, the Tripoli ruling clique is still convinced that, according to its logic, it will triumph over the peaceful people of Chad by force of arms. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, in an archaic approach, is aiding Tripoli despite the opposition of the Sudanese people. But Chadians' faith in their fatherland is stronger than any other crusade against their country. Al-Qadhdhafi's desperate militarist action will be pitifully annihilated on Chad's doorstep.

Bogged down in the south by victories by opposition forces and facing a serious threat due to his adventurous and obscure policy, Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi and his Libyan uncle are now at bay. He believes he will find salvation by playing into Al-Qadhdhafi's hands. But how far will he proceed in this dangerous game? The Khartoum regime should seriously consider the consequences of its two- fold game and its unacceptable collusion with Al-Qadhdhafi. This warning should prompt profound reflection in Khartoum.

Lake Chad, Niger Basin Summit Sessions Continue

Addressed by President Habre

AB301049 Dakar PANA in English 2129 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Ndjamena, 29 Oct. (ATP/PANA)—Chadian President Hissein Habre has called for the establishment of larger and more solid regional economic groupings which transcend ideological cleavages and national considerations. The Chadian president made this statement on Wednesday [28 October] when opening a joint summit of the Lake Chad Basin Commission (CBLT) and the Niger River Basin Authority (ABN), attended by Nigerian President Ibrahim Babangida, Moussa Traore of Mali, and the prime minister of Niger, Hamid Algabid. The remaining five member states of the two organisations were represented by ministers.

Mr. Habre said in view of the prevailing adverse economic situation which threatens the future of mankind, "it is important that we unite our efforts to promote the socio-economic development of our people, who have just emerged from slavery and colonial barbarism." To do this, he said, it was necessary to develop understanding and solidarity among the peoples to overcome ideological differences and national egoism.

The Chadian president called on the member states of the two organizations to further assist CBLT and ABN to make the Lake Chad and Niger Basins "a zone of economic prosperity." He, however, noted that the two organisations had over the last few years been faced with continuous drought which had disturbed the ecosystem, destroyed vegetation, brought about desertification and hampered agricultural production. Speaking about the continuous fall in the price of raw materials and lack of solution to the debt crisis, President Habre said these were part of the inequality and injustice which govern international relations.

Concerning the two organisations, Habre urged member states to be more committed to them, in spite of the budgetary constraints they face due to the global economic crisis.

To tap the water resources in Lake Chad and Niger River, President Habre called for the definition of a viable policy of socio-economic integration of the member states. He hailed the assistance given by the international community to the two organisations.

Among the issues the summit dealt with is the demarcation of boundaries on Lake Chad, security, the payment of arrears and administrative and financial re-organization.

The summit ended on Thursday morning.

ABN Issues Communique

AB301058 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Final communique issued in Ndjamena at the conclusion of the fifth summit of the ABN on 29 October—read by ABN Executive Secretary D.M. Traore]

[Text] The heads of state and government of the ABN or their representatives held a summit in Ndjamena on 28-29 October 1987 under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad and head of state. Those attending the

summit were His Excellency General Mousa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali; His Excellency General Ibrahim Babangida, head of the Federal Military Government and commander in chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces; His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad; His Excellency Hamid Algabid, prime minister representing the president of the Republic of Niger; His Excellency Soule Dankoro, minister of equipment and transport representing the president of the People's Republic of Benin; His Excellency Sadou Hayatou, minister of planning and territorial development representing the president of the Republic of Cameroon; and His Excellency Jean Traore, minister of foreign affairs representing the president of the Republic of Guinea.

The fifth summit reviewed the rainfall and ecological situation prevailing throughout the Niger Basin over the past year. It noted that poor rainfall had caused a shortfall in agricultural production, especially in food crops. The extent of this shortfall has not yet been determined. The low water level of the Niger River and its tributaries may have adverse consequences [words indistinct]. The summit urged the responsible national and regional authorities of the ABN to initiate, pursue, and increase their (?joint efforts).

The fifth summit took a close look at the [words indistinct] permanent crisis, a crisis essentially resulting from the lack of an appropriate working framework and inadequate human and financial resources. The body expressed satisfaction with results of deliberations of the (?15th) ordinary session of the Council of Ministers on reorganizing and reviving activities of our organization. The meeting also approved all measures recommended by the council, especially revising the constituent charter of the ABN to redefine the objectives of the authority [words indistinct], as well as a more equitable assessment of member states' annual contributions.

The fifth summit appealed to members [words indistinct] to implement the (?measures). It reiterated its satisfaction with donors for (?their generous contributions) and urgently appealed to (?them for additional assistance). [passage indistinct]

At the close of their deliberations, the heads of state or their representatives unanimously elected His Excellency Gen Moussa Traore, president of the Republic of Mali, as current chairman of the ABN [words indistinct]. [passage indistinct]

CBLT Issues Final Communique

AB301311 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Final communique issued at the close of the 15th summit of the CBLT on 29 October in Ndjamena—read by Wadal Abdelkader Kamougue, chairman of the CBLT Council of Ministers]

[Text] The 15th (?ordinary) summit of the CBLT was held on 29 October 1987 in Ndjamena, capital of the Republic of Chad, under the chairmanship of His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, and founding chairman of the National Union for Independence and Revolution [UNIR]. Attending the summit were: His Excellency Sadou Hayatou, minister of planning and territorial development, representing His Excellency Paul Biya, president of the Republic of Cameroon; His Excellency Hamid Algabid, prime minister, representing His Excellency General Seyni Kountche, president of the Republic of Niger; His Excellency Major General Gado Nasko, minister of agriculture, water resources, and rural development, representing His Excellency General Ibrahim Babangida, commander in chief of the Nigerian Armed Forces; and His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, and founding chairman of UNIR.

During the meeting, the heads of state examined the organization's activities during the period from 1985 and pledged their willingness to reactivate cooperation within the CBLT. The (?situation) of the subregion has been marked by persistent drought, encroaching desertification, and their resulting adverse effects on Lake Chad and the environment. In another development, the heads of state expressed satisfaction with progress made to conclusively solve questions of border demarcation and security on Lake Chad. They instructed the commission to accelerate implementation of the 5-year plan of action. They also ordered the commission to ensure the equitable use of Lake Chad Basin waters for attaining self-sufficiency in food in the subregion (?in conjunction with international assistance). The heads of state additionally told the body to convene a meeting of environmental ministers to examine the consequences of (?each project). The commission is expected to begin border demarcation in March 1988.

The summit urgently appealed to the international community to assist the commission in its effort to safeguard Lake Chad and build roads, railroads, and port facilities to promote integrated development of the subregion.

The conference was held in the atmosphere of cordiality, friendship, and solidarity that has always marked the meetings of this organization. His Excellency Paul Biya, president of the Republic of Cameroon, will serve as its chairman for the next 2 years. [applause]

The heads of state expressed sincere thanks to His Excellency El Hadj Hissein Habre, president of the Republic of Chad, head of state, and founding chairman of UNIR, and to the Chadian Government and people for the typically African hospitality accorded them during their stay. The next summit will be held in Cameroon in 1989.

Issued at Ndjamena on 29 October 1987 in English and French, with both versions being equally authoritative. [applause]

Joint Commission Meeting With Zaire Opens

AB032124 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpt] The first meeting of the Chad-Zaire Joint Cooperation Commission opened in Ndjamena this afternoon. The solemn opening ceremony took place in the meeting room of the Consular Chamber under the chairmanship of the minister of planning and cooperation. The Zairian side was led by the secretary of state for foreign affairs, Citizen Kabala Kisela Seka. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives Pakistani Navy Commander

NC311109 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1103 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak this morning received General Iftikhar Sirohi, commander of the Pakistani naval forces, at the Presidential Palace. Also attending the meeting were Rear Admiral Muhammad Sharif al-Sadiq, commander of the naval forces, and the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Cairo.

'Abd al-Majid Confers With Niger Official

NC031515 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1345 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, met today with Niger delegate for interior Amadou Fiti, who began a visit to Cairo yesterday. The talks focused on bilateral relations and ways of strengthening them in all fields, as well as the possibility of Egypt's participation in development pojects in Niger. 'Abd al-Majid expressed Egypt's readiness to contribute to development projects there and to send experts.

Ghali Returns from Asian Tour, Views Talks

NC040857 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 4 Nov (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo this morning from a 2-week Asian tour which included Singapore, the PRC, and South Korea.

Upon arrival, Ghali said that he will submit a full report on his tour to President Mubarak. He pointed out that during his visit to Singapore, he had discussed ways to bolster bilateral relations and coordinate Singapore's stand on the Middle East issue and the Gulf war with that of the Nonaligned Movement.

Dr Ghali stated that he had delivered President Mubarak's message to Chinese President Li Xiannian. He also held talks with Chinese officials on what role China can play, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, in resolving the Middle East issue, convening an international conference, and implementing Resolution 598 on ending the Gulf war. Ghali's talks in China also dealt with bilateral relations and ways to consolidate them.

During his visit to China, Ghali took part in the second conference on Egyptian-Chinese relations, which was held in Beijing among experts from both countries. The conference discussed international relations, their effect on regional security, Middle East issues, the Gulf war, and the challenges facing the Third World.

Ghali stated that both countries agreed to hold the third conference on Egyptian-Chinese relations in Cairo in December 1988. The first conference was also held in Cairo.

He described his talks in the ROK as productive and focusing on promoting bilateral ties.

Ghali pointed out that Egypt takes a neutral stand with regard to the dispute between the two Korea's, and that it supports peaceful dialogue between them. Ghali hoped both countries would find a peaceful means for achieving unity.

Sidqi Opens Investment Opportunities Symposium

NC021626 Cairo MENA in English 1520 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov 2 (MENA)—Premier Dr. 'Atif Sidqi inaugurated today the conference on investment opportunities in Egypt, organised by the General Authority for Investment in collaboration with the UN International Development Organisation (UNIDO).

The conference is attended by about 200 investors representing 28 countries from the various parts of the world.

Addressing the inaugural session, Dr. Sidqi said the keenness by investors of world countries to take part in industrial development efforts in Egypt through this conference reflects the extent of the confidence in the Egyptian economy at the world level.

Dr. Sidqi said the conference is held at the time Egypt starts the implementation of its second five-year plan for economic development, after the first five-year plan achieved fully its objectives as regards increasing national income and providing further investment opportunities.

He pointed out that the second five-year plan 1987-1992 with investments reaching 46 billion pounds, aims at stepping up total local products by 5.8 per cent annually,

creating new work opportunities for about two million nationals, besides reducing the current deficit in the balance of payments by about 1.5 billion pounds during the five-year plan.

Dr. Sidqi further asserted that the state works for promoting the private and the public sectors as they are both the cornerstones of economic structure.

Dr Sidqi reviewed the government efforts for continuing to carry out the ambitious development programmes side by side with meeting its financial commitments towards the foreign countries despite the decline in Egypt's resources from tourism, petroleum and Egyptian workers remittances.

He referred to the support given by the International Monetary Fund to the Egyptian economic reform programme and to the bilateral negotiations on the reschedule of debts to the different creditor countries according to Paris Club agreement.

He added that within the framework of the economic reform programme the banks free exchange market was established last May with the objective of realisation a virtual unified exchange rate to be enforced in all transactions in foreign currency for the purpose of stability.

Sidqi said that the earnings of the free exchange market during a period not exceeding five months reached 1.5 billion dollars, thus contributing to meeting requirements of the private and public sectors of foreign currency.

Dr. Sidqi underlined that exports were given great attention by the government for their connection with the issue of production and the improvement of the balance of payments as well as the laying of stable basis for the support of the home currency value.

He said that the Egyptian investment law as testified by international experts is considered a model for balancing the privileges realised by the investor and those secured by the national economy from this investment. He added that numerous joint schemes which started their activities under this law have achieved a return on the capital exceeding the expectations of the foreign partners.

He said that investment in Egypt witnessed great development in the speed and efficiency of performance and the procedures for the approval of the projects were simplified and facilitated to solve any impediments.

Ethiopian Official Ends 5-Day Visit, Departs

NC031509 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0820 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Amanuel Michael, deputy chairman of the Ethiopian State Council, departed Cairo for Algeria this morning, winding up a 5-day visit to Egypt. During his stay, the Ethiopian official handed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam. He also conferred with Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, Consultative Council Speaker Dr 'Ali Lutfi, and the deputy prime ministers.

Prior to his departure, Michael said that his talks with President Mubarak were fruitful and that the president is prepared to work for the cause of peace whether in Africa or the Middle East.

Amanuel Michael hailed Egyptian-Ethiopian ties, which he described as historical. He said that these have grown since the establishment of the modern Ethiopian Republic, which respects its neighbors and refrains from interference in their internal affairs.

Michael said that he had explained to Egyptian officials and newsmen the new constitutional conditions in Ethiopia and the significance of the new Constitution. He added that Egyptian officials have shown understanding for the new changes in Ethiopia. [passage omitted]

Sudanese Foreign Minister Stops Over in Cairo

NC040724 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2232 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Mahjub Ma'mun Sanadah, Sudanese foreign minister [title as received], has affirmed that relations with Egypt are strong. He added that the two ruling parties in Sudan are trying to place Egyptian-Sudanese relations in their proper perspective for the good of the two countries.

This came in a statement by Sanadah during a stopover he made at Cairo airport this evening on his way home from Jamaica, where he had attended the extraordinary meeting of the foreign ministers of African, Asian, and Carribean countries, which began in Kensington on Thursday and lasted for 2 days. The conference discussed ways to confront racial persecution in South Africa and Namibia.

Referring to the issue of southern Sudan, the Sudanese foreign minister said that the Sudanese Government has extended an invitation to southern rebel leader John Garang to attend the constitutional conference for resolving the crisis in southern Sudan. The government has extended invitations to all political parties in the country to attend, he said, and the date for its convention will be set after a reply is received from Garang.

IMF Official Arrives in Cairo for Talks

NC031757 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1725 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, 3 Nov (MENA)—Dr 'Abd al-Shakkur Sha'lan, director of IMF Middle East operations, arrived in Cairo today for a 1-week visit. During his stay in Egypt, the IMF official will participate in the talks which some IMF officials are currently holding with Egyptian officials.

Delegation Departs for Paris Economic Talks

NC031536 Cairo MENA in English 1305 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov 3 (MENA)—An Egyptian delegation under 'Abd al-'Aziz Zahwi, first undersecretary of the Ministry of International Cooperation left Cairo today for Paris on a five-day visit to attend meetings of the joint Egyptian French Committee for Economic Cooperation.

The two sides will sign a protocol for financial cooperation for 1988 to the value of 1,200 million French francs as a loan on easy term. It represents an increase of about 300 million French francs compared with the protocol of 1987.

In addition, there will be a grant of 100 million French francs. The grant was announced by French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac during his visit to Cairo to attend the inauguration of the Cairo underground metro.

Egypt has received credit facilities and loans since 1974 which have so far amounted to 19.7 million French francs on easy terms.

Egypt is expected to receive better terms in next year's protocol which will contribute to easing the burdens of debts.

Military Debt to U.S., Arab Loans Examined

JN031658 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 1 Nov 87 p 1

[By 'Abd al-Nabi 'Abid al-Sattar]

[Text] The Egyptian Government is currently holding intensive negotiations with the GCC countries to obtain an urgent loan of $1.5 billion. This loan will be used to settle the first installment of Egyptian military debts to the United States. The first installment is $700 million and is due at the end of this month. The remaining part of the loan will be used to finance some projects of the first year of the second 5-year development plan.

Washington recently refused to postpone the settlement of Egypt's military debts in accordance with the Rook [as published] principle in U.S. law under which military debts are privileged debts which cannot be postponed.

Field Marshal Muhammad 'Abd al-Halim Abu Ghazalah, deputy prime minister and defense minister, had postponed his Washington visit, scheduled to take place last October, until the U.S. Administration demonstrates more flexibility in its role as Egypt's guarantor with the U.S. financial institutions of Bankers Trust and Solomon Brothers. They are to grant Egypt a loan that will enable it to settle its military debts to the United States at a 7 percent interest rate and with a 5-year grace period. The U.S. Administration set as a condition for agreeing to the Egyptian demands the Egyptian Government's approval of U.S. forces at the Ra's Banas base in the Red Sea. However, Egypt rejected this request because it did not want to deviate from its firm stand of not allowing any foreign military bases on Egyptian terriitory.

Al-Wafd has learned that the United States recently agreed to reschedule Egyptian civil debts, which are due this November. *Al-Wafd* has also learned that the sum total of Arab loans to Egypt until 1983 has reached $2.645 billion with a grace period of 10 years, repayable over 30 years, and at an interest rate which does not exceed 2 percent.

Religious Clashes Erupt in Al-Minya Governorate

PM040925 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 26 Oct 87 p 1

[Madani Salih report: "Zaki Badr Flies to Al-Minya and Dismisses First Assistant Minister and Security Director"]

[Excerpts] Al-Minya—The situation has erupted once again in Al-Minya Governorate. Some members of extremist groups stormed the YMCA last Saturday while a party was in progress. They smashed doors and windows and attacked the guard and a number of guests.

Al-Minya's bishop reported the incident to Al-Minya Governor Major General 'Abd al-Tawwab Rashwan, but the security forces were slow to act. Interior Minister Major General Zaki Badr then flew to Al-Minya and held an emergency meeting with the security commanders. He issued a decision dismissing the Interior Ministry first assistant for Central Egypt, as well as Al-Minya Security Director Major General Husayn Mahmud (who is a cousin of Badr's), and suspended Al-Minya Security Forces Commander Colonel Anwar Wajdi. Major General Hasan 'Ali was appointed Interior Ministry first assistant and Major General Zakariya Riyad was appointed Al-Minya security director.

The situation was later brought under control after the arrest of some of the leaders of the groups, including 'Ali 'Abd al-Fattah. [passage omitted]

Al-Minya Governor Maj Gen 'Abd al-Tawwab Rashwan has told *Al-Ahrar* that the rumors about the building of a new church on the eastern bank of the Nile and about the seizure of arms inside one of the churches were completely unfounded. He also denied that extremist groups have set up a special court to try certain people, as claimed by some tendentious sources.

AL-AHRAM Criticizes 'Arafat Tunis Remarks

NC010605 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2230 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Cairo, 31 Oct (MENA)—Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee, is reported to have said in Tunis that he does not accept UN Security

Council Resolutions 242 and 338 alone, but all the UN resolutions on this issue. *Al-Ahram* newspaper says that if this is true, it signifies a positive sign of detente in the Palestinian issue.

However, in tomorrow's edition, the paper is critical of 'Arafat's statement that he is willing to meet with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir or any other Israeli officials within the framework of the proposed international peace conference. The paper points out that Shamir has long since declared his refusal to negotiate with the PLO or recognize it, preferring bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries without any foreign interference, even by the UN Security Council.

The paper believes that by linking the statements 'Arafat has weakened their effect. It says that 'Arafat should have declared his acceptance of the two resolutions along with the acceptance of all the UN resolutions on the Palestinian issue without directly announcing his readiness to meet with Shamir or anyone else. In this way the basic issue would not be hampered by the pretexts that some choose to employ.

In conclusion, the paper notes that the PLO would still have ample opportunity to raise and impose its views if it kept pace with developments and exhibited sufficient flexibility before the world as a whole to prove that it is undertaking real initiatives that are worthy of respect and implementation. It should show that it has a real understanding of developments. Such an attitude would not mean that it has to commit itself irrevocably, either openly or implicitly, the paper says.

Liberal Party Calls for Constitutional Amendment

PM031119 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 19 Oct 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "We Say to Mubarak: No, a Change in the Constitution Is a Priority"]

[Text] The Liberal Party General Secretariat has objected to President Husni Mubarak's announcement, in his speech to the People's Assembly, that an amendment to the Constitution is not high on the list of national priorities.

The Secretariat stressed that amending the Constitution is an absolute necessity for the protection of democracy which the president emphasizes.

The party's General Secretariat, at its meeting chaired by Mustafa Kamil Murad last Tuesday, urged the government to adopt the necessary measures with regard to submitting the question of a constitutional amendment to the people.

The Secretariat members emphasized that the Egyptian people, who have said "yes" to Mubarak as president for a second term, refuse to remain under the rule of a constitution which imposes emergency laws on them, deprives them of their natural right to form political parties and publish newspapers, and also deprives them of the right to choose the president of the republic by direct and free elections.

The Secretariat members stressed that keeping the Constitution as it is without amendment would mean that democracy, which President Mubarak is eager to emphasize, will become a gift of the ruler rather than the people's right.

Party General Secretariat members pointed to the fact that the present constitution gives any ruler the right to ban or confer democracy—which threatens democracy with a setback.

General Secretariat members expressed their astonishment at the determination to go on working with the present constitution, which contradicts the democracy currently prevailing in Egyptian society.

Mubarak Attends Air Force Anniversary Ceremony

NC031419 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpts] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak attended celebrations marking the 55th anniversary of the Egyptian Air Force at the Air College grounds in Bilbays.

Air Force Commander Major General Muhammad 'Ala' al-Din Barakat delivered a speech in which he welcomed President Mubarak. He said that the Air Force anniversary coincides with the Prophet Muhammad's birthday and the anniversary of the glorious October victories. He added that the Air Force is doing its utmost in terms of training and in terms of developing its weapons to keep pace with world progress in this vital sphere. The Air Force is always ready to perform, at the highest level, any mission assigned to it.

The Air Force commander saluted the heroes, martyrs, and commanders who have served in the Air Force since its formation in 1932.

A parade followed, in which Air College cadets took part. An air display then began with a flyover by helicopters carrying the flags of the Armed Forces. L-29 planes and Chinook and Gazelle helicopters fitted with anti-tank missiles were then seen. Next, formations of transport planes and MIG-17 planes flew overhead, followed by a display by F-16 aircraft fitted with the most up-to-date technological devices. The display concluded with flights by Mirage 2000 planes. [passage omitted]

President Mubarak then presented certificates of merit to a number of pilots and Air Force technicians. Afterward, he visited the Air Force exhibition, which includes models of the most modern planes and equipment used by the Air Force.

The celebration was attended by senior state officials and commanders of the Armed Forces.

Barakat Details Air Force Requirements, Skills

JN022036 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 2 Nov 87 p 6

[By Faruq al-Shadhili]

[Excerpts] At a ceremony on the 55th anniversary of the Egyptian Air Force Major General Ala' Barakat has stated that Egypt provides technical assistance to the Arab air forces. He also affirmed for the second time that not a single Egyptian pilot is on a combat mission outside Egypt's borders. He said: We have a strong deterrent force in all strategic directions as we have the most modern aircraft, including aircraft for refuelling fighter planes in the air.

Maj Gen Barakat said that Egypt will complete its requiremetns in F-16 fighter planes by the middle of next year. He added: We also have introduced some modifications on the early warning aircraft which recently arrived in Egypt and the United States has introduced some of these modifications on its own planes. [passage omitted]

On the repair work the Air Force workshops carry out on aircraft engines, the Air Force commander said: The MIG and Mirage-5 planes we have are currently being repaired in Egypt and contracts are being discussed on repair workshops for the F-16 and the Mirage 2000 planes. He added: We will soon be able to carry out repair work on these planes in Egypt and these two types of planes are the most modern aircraft that our Air Force has received. He said: In this respect, we cooperate with the Arab industries organization.

On technical assistance to the Arabs, Maj Gen Barakat said that Egypt is ready for this and it is currently doing so. He said: Several Arab countries repair their aircraft in Egypt, particularly aircraft of the same type as Egypt's.

Maj Gen Barakat said that some Arab countries are also interested in carrying out repair work on helicopters in Egypt. [passage omitted]

Chief of Staff on Air Defense Modernizations

NC011632 Cairo MENA in English 1530 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] Cairo, Nov 1 —(MENA)—Lieutenant General Safiyal-Din Abu Shinaf, chief of staff of the Armed Forces, today attended a ceremony at which the command of Air Defences was handed from Lieutenant General 'Adil Khalil, assistant defence minister and former commander of Air Defence Forces, to the new Commander, Major General Mustafa Ahmad al-Shadhili.

Lieut Gen 'Adil Khalil made an address at the beginning of the ceremony in which he reviewed the achievements of the Egyptian Air Defence Forces.

He referred to developments in air defences in the world and the introduction of modern electronic methods. He said a plan was drawn up to develop Egyptian Defence Forces to keep pace with these developments.

Development of Egyptian Air Defence Forces took two directions. The first was to maintain the huge quantities of Eastern equipment, the value of which is valued at 40 billion pounds at current prices.

The second was to develop the systems of command and control and transform them into automatic systems to cover Egyptian skies in full and introduce the latest techniques.

He said that the prototypes of the gun "Sinai 23" and the gun "Ramadan 23" have been produced.

Shooting ranges have been developed to meet requirements of modern shooting practices, he said.

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Urges Italy To Pay War Reparations

PM031212 Rome LA REPUBBLICA in Italian 30 Oct 87 p 17

[Luciano Ardesi report on an interview with Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi granted to Italian journalists in Aba al-'Aziziyah: "The Colonel's Blackmail: 'We Will Use Force Against Italy'"; date not given]

[Excerpts] Tripoli—Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has confirmed the threats to Italy issued shortly before by the secretary of the Tripoli People's Committee, not reported in the local press, and has added further threats to Italian firms. In an interview granted to a number of Italian journalists in a tent at Bab al-'Aziziyah barracks not far from the center of Tripoli, Al-Qadhdhafi was eager to specify Libya's position on the question of compensation for Italy's occupation of Libya and in particular the issue of the 4,000 deportees transferred to our country.

[Journalist] The people's committees have warned that unless the Italian Government provides information about Libyan deportees, they will resort to taking Italian hostages to discover the deportees' fate. Do you agree with this?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Unless we manage to resolve this problem with Italy, the Libyan people could, in exceptional circumstances, take their own measures, and even resort to force. The Italian Government should pay compensation as soon as possible and close a chapter of history that caused great harm and claimed many lives and casualties in the minefields it left behind. Successive Italian Governments have not done their duty and have

not attached due importance to the issue. If this continues I will have to announce that the Libyan Government will no longer answer for what the Libyan people may decide to do in the future.

The colonel put a pair of glasses on his heavily lined face and slowly consulted a sheaf of papers. He cited specific cases, such as that of the Nawfal family, whose 13 members were deported to the Tremiti Islands on 26 October 1915. As with other deportees, nothing is known of their fate.

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Italian Government has not replied to the relatives of these missing persons. I fear that unless this happens by the end of the year, next year could bring bad news. I will be forced to declare that I bear no responsibility for whatever actions Libyan citizens may decide to take to assert their right to compensation for war damage. Then it will be possible to say that the Tremiti Islands are Libyan, just like the Malvinas for the British and New Caledonia, Reunion, and Mayotte for the French.

[Journalist] Your remarks could be seen as blackmail. Is this really what you mean?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] It is all the same to me. Call it what you want. The Italian people should honor these requests. We want to build a friendship with Italy, but we demand our rights. If agreement is reached on this matter we can turn a new page.

[Journalist] A treaty was concluded between Italy and King Idris in 1956. Does the Jamahiriyah not recognize it?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] Like all other acts of the monarchy, we do not recognize this treaty. It was impossible to demand compensation because at that time the Libyan people were not independent.

[Journalist] In past years Foreign Minister Andreotti has proposed the acknowledgement of responsibility for this damage through the construction of a large hospital. What is your opinion of this proposal? Do you consider it a positive response to the problem?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The Italian Government has never built anything. Perhaps it has forgotten its promise.

[Journalist] What if this proposal were to be revived?

[Al-Qadhdhafi] The initiative could be a good thing. It could constitute an initial basis for negotiations. So far Italy has shown no desire to turn a new page with Libya. In fact, the present page is increasingly grim. Libya purchased first aid (sic—*La Repubblica* editor's note) aircraft and other goods from Italy, which froze them out of solidarity with France and the other European countries. How much confidence can we have in Italy if it assumes the right to seize this civilian equipment? We will be forced to urge other Arab countries not to buy from Italy and France. The Chadian problem is not a concern of the Italian or French Governments, or even Libya's. We are simply supporting the Chadian people. If Italy persists along this path we will be forced to cancel the contracts because we no longer have any confidence in French and Italian firms.

With regard to the threat to sever trade relations with our country, it should be pointed out that Italian exports to Libya fell by 41.4 percent last year to the level of 1.4 trillion lire at the end of 1986. Imports—chiefly crude oil—fell during the same period by 56.4 percent, though our balance of trade still shows a 1.5 trillion lire deficit. Of the 625 million dollars' worth of credits and orders which, according to an agreement, should have been paid by June this year, only a tiny percentage has been paid.

Al-Qadhdhafi Announces 'Arab Opposition' Meeting

LD022050 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1814 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 2 Nov (JANA)—Brother leader of the revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has declared that the Arab opposition is invited to hold a conference in the Great Jamahiriyah before the end of the year.

He also said at his news conference that another attempt is being made to hold a conference of the Arab national parties which are in power, at the fore of which are the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Algerian National Liberation Party, the Yemen Socialist Party in the south, and the national parties in Sudan.

The leader also declared that there is yet another invitation for the Pan-Arab Command of the Arab Revolutionary Forces, stressing that these invitations are designed to confront the United States and its agents.

DFLP's Hawatimah Arrives in Tripoli 3 Nov

LD031917 Tripoli JANA in English 1817 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, Al-Harth [November] 3, *Jamahiriyah News Agency*—"Nayif Hawatimah" the secretary-general of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine arrived this evening in Tripoli on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets With PFLP's Qubba'h

LD040203 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1908 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tripoli, 3 Oct (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received Brother Taysir Qubba'h, PFLP Political Bureau member.

JANA Attacks Howe's Remarks on Soviet Policy

LD011748 Tripoli JANA in English 1637 GMT 1 Nov 87

[Text] [No dateline as received]—The JANA editor of European affairs comments on the attacks by Geoffrey Howe on the USSR.

The British foreign secretary, Geoffrey Howe, has criticized the Soviet Union for not approving the U.S. and Western muscle-flexing in the Arab Gulf and the threat to use force against the countries of the region.

In a statement in Cairo yesterday, Howe criticized the Soviet way of dealing with the Gulf war to bring about peace between the two countries and a cease-fire.

The editor of European affairs has commented on Howe's statement. He said: The statement by British Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe is part of an organized, deliberate, and purposeful campaign by the West to keep the Soviet Union out of the region and hinder its international efforts.

The editor said the Soviet Union is a international major power concerned with the maintenance of international peace; and attempts to block the Soviet Union from playing its role would mean an international imbalance.

The editor made clear that the Soviet policy is appropriate in dealing with international problems and aimed at maintaining security and peace; and that is why the United States and Western countries are seeking to keep the Soviet Union out of the Arab Gulf region, as they would like to take over the region and control it.

Mauritania

President Taya Receives Algerian Envoy

AB031108 Nouachott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, CMSN chairman and head of state, yesterday received Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, member of the Algerian FLN Political Bureau and minister of state for the presidency. At the end of the meeting, the Algerian president's special envoy declared that his visit falls in line with regular consultations between the two countries on issues concerning the Maghreb region and the Arab world in general. He added that he briefed the head of state on the latest developments in the situation in the subregion. He and the CMSN chairman reviewed various aspects of bilateral cooperation. Present at the meeting were Major Mohamed Lemine Ould N'diayane, CMSN member and minister of foreign affairs and cooperation, and the Algerian ambassador to Mauritania.

Algerian Minister Departs

LD040658 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpt] Mr Mohamed Ben Ahmed Abdelghani, Algerian FLN Political Bureau member, minister of state for the presidency, and special envoy for Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid, left Nouakchott this morning after a 24-hour visit to our country. During this visit the Algerian envoy gave a message to Colonel Maaouya Ould Sid' Ahmed Taya, chairman of the CMSN and head of state, from Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid. [passage omitted]

Health Ministry Confirms Yellow Fever Epidemic

LD302309 Nouakchott Domestic Service in Arabic 2030 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] A Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs statement issued today confirmed the outbreak of a yellow fever epidemic in the province of Trarza on the 15th of this month.

So far 160 cases have been discovered, 22 of which have been fatal.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs has drawn up a strategy for confronting this disease in three stages. The first is inoculating the population; the second is combating the causal factors of the disease; and the third concentrates on treating discovered cases.

The Ministry of Public Health and Social Affairs pointed out that the state immediately sent all available means to combat this disease. An inoculation campaign against yellow fever commenced in the provinces of Trarza, [word indistinct] and Nouakchott on the 28th of this month. This campaign will soon include all the national territories.

This morning a joint meeting was held between the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and Public Health and Social Affairs at the conference hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. All the diplomatic missions accredited to Nouakchott and representatives of international organizations took part. On this occasion the Mauritanian authorities addressed an urgent appeal to the international community [passage indistinct]

PRC Donates Books to Nouakchott University

AB031059 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] China has presented a large consignment of books and manuals to our country to be used at the Nouakchott University. The donation was presented yesterday afternoon by the PRC ambassador to Nouakchott, Cui Jie, to the rector of the university. (Mohamed Oumine Ould

Delhi). They each praised the high level of cooperation between Mauritania and the PRC, particularly in the area of education and teaching.

This donation comes under a cooperation agreement signed in June 1987 between the Ministry of National Education and the PRC Higher Education Committee. The agreement also provides for the teaching of Chinese language and literature at the Nouakchott University. Already 20 students, among others who have obtained a diploma in Chinese studies, will register for a master's degree program in the same field.

Morocco

Hassan Cited on Gulf War, Arab Summit, Sahara

LD011612 Rabat MAP in English 1215 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Fes, Oct 31 (MAP)—The French television network "Antenne 2" aired Friday afternoon an interview with King Hassan II live from Fes.

The twenty minute long interview centered on major international issues, especially the Iraq-Iran war and the upcoming Arab extraordinary summit scheduled for Nov 8 in Amman. The sovereign also addressed his call for an Islamic council, the resolution of the European Parliament pertaining to human rights in Morocco and the departure of the Oufkir family for Canada.

The sovereign stressed the peculiar nature of the Iraq-Iran war saying the two countries are waging an open war to each other and maintain at the same time their embassies in the two capitals. The military war is like a show for the public, said the sovereign explaining that to him the whole thing, in spite of international missiles, aircraft raids, sinking of tankers and countless deaths, is a war meant to export ideologies under the guise of teachings of Islam.

Addressing problems tearing the Islamic nation, the sovereign explained that the Sunna is the orthodox Muslim rite while the Shi'a, even if its not completely heretical, is still an heresy which covers 93 sects and schools and whose most radical trend is the "Ja'fari'a" Shi'a, the official rite in Iran. I called for an Islamic conference to settle disputes and set up commissions of Sunni and Shi'ite to address pending issues and recover the status quo ante of a minimum of tolerance that had prevailed for fourteen centuries, he said.

The sovereign rejected the possibility of radicalism in Morocco saying religion is well protected by the Malekite rite, religious education and ancestral traditions, and stressed the problem of interpretation. The Koran and the prophet's Hadith are in Arabic and Muslims in non-Arab countries have to rely on theologians for explication giving rise to a clergy which becomes the depository of truth and ability to interpret and make the law. I would tell Khomeyni, should we meet, I am ready to give you indisputable evidence of the rectitude of our attitude and abuses in yours, said the monarch.

Referring to human rights and the European plea to this effect, the sovereign said there exists a political-social contract between him and the Moroccan people which requires him to protect the institutions topped by territorial integrity. To me, he said, there is no such a thing as political offence, but when Moroccans claim the Sahara is not ours, I have to enforce legislation to protect legally, democratically chosen institutions by the Moroccan people.

The interview ended with a recap and assessment of the situation in the Gulf. The sovereign said no settlement could be reached as long as the superpowers adopt publically a stance and act contrary to this stance recalling the axiom, he said, he repeatedly heard in the capitals, Western ones mainly, "We do not want Iran to win, we do not want Iraq to lose." The sovereign concluded wondering what the Amman summit will be like and which issue will it deal with first, the Arab-Arab issues or Arab-Iranian ones. He also voiced hope to see the summit result in dialogue at the larger level of the Islamic nation rather than to confine it to the Arab world.

Editorial Backs 'Gains of Territorial Unity'

LD031805 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Excerpts] We begin the newscast with an editorial on the Moroccan people's struggle to safeguard the gains of territorial unity.

After the Green March achieved the objective of liberation, no one imagined that the Moroccan people's battle with colonialism would end. The Moroccan people were left face-to-face with new adversaries who were not pleased by the liquidation of colonialism in our Sahara. We know that they maneuvered, entered into an alliance, and obstructed the process of liberation behind a veil and feeble slogans. However, their actions during the Green March and afterward exceeded the imagination of a reasonable person and were beyond the rationale of logic and understanding. There is no explanation for their actions except blind hatred brought about by the collapse of their schemes before the triumph of the Moroccan people's will under the leadership of their inspired king. [passage omitted]

There is no doubt that the technical commission, which the UN secretary general has decided to send to the region in order to examine the actual facts in the Sahara, is aware of the facts presented by history and law and that exist in the conscience and sentiments of the southern region's inhabitants. [passage omitted]

The great lie started by the enemies of our territorial unity will be revealed to the international commission, and the feebleness of the Saharan state, whose creators snatched a seat for it on a continental organization which made a grave historical error, will be exposed to its members.

Belgian Minister Criticized for Remark

LD311154 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1000 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Excerpt] Rabat, 31 Oct (MAP)—A spokesman for the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation has expressed the Moroccan Government's great astonishment and strong criticism of the statements, which are hostile to foreigners, made by Belgian Interior Minister Joseph Michel. The spokesman said that such statements are regrettable, especially since they were made by a member of the government of a friendly country.

The Belgian minister, in an interview with *Exclusief* magazine—parts of which were relayed by French radio and Belgian television on Thursday evening—described Moroccan, Turkish, and Yugoslav workers as barbarians. [passage omitted]

BRIEFS

Flights Resume To Bamako

Rabat, 1 Nov (MAP)—Flights between Casablanca and Bamako were resumed on 27 October. The Moroccan ambassador held a reception in Bamako which was attended by prominent Malian Government officials, including the transport minister. The visiting minister thanked the Moroccan monarch and government on behalf of his government for this decision, which the Malians had long awaited. [Text] *[Rabat MAP in Arabic 1530 GMT 1 Nov 87 LD]*

Sudan

News Blackout of Economic Protests Alleged

LD031859 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 3, (SUNA)—The National Islamic Front [NIF] has handed over a memo to Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi protesting against the media black out on news of the NIF rallies and demonstrations organized in the capital and the major regional cities in protest against the latest government economic policies.

The memo called for the adoption of measures necessary for highlighting differing view points in the Sudanese Government controlled media.

Airline Employees Stage 3-Day Strike

JN291453 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA)—Sudan Airline Company employees, technicians, maintenance personnel, administrators, and economists began a 3-day strike this morning.

A Sudan Airline Company trade unionist told SUNA today that the strike, which has been 100 percent successful, has been staged to protest the government's policy with regard to the dismissal of employees. He added: In its position, the government is implementing the policies of the International Bank and the IMF.

It is noteworthy that the Sudan Airline Company, Sudan Air, was a public institution prior to becoming a private company. As a result, it has had to do without the services of many employees. Domestic and external flights will be suspended during the strike.

Flights Resume

LD031852 Khartoum SUNA in English 1722 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, Nov 3 (SUNA)—More than 400 from the Sudan Airways striking employees have contacted today the administration of the new (Sudan Air Company) to resume work an official source at the company said.

The new company director general Dr Tag Alsir Mahjoub [name as received] announced here today that measures have been taken to resume domestic and international flights as from tomorrow Wednesday and that 850 employees from different departments in the former Sudan Airways signed contracts with the new company.

On the other hand chairman of the Council of State Ahmad al-Mirghani received here today Dr. Mahjoub and reviewed with him the measures which were adopted to change the corporation into company.

Dr. Mahjoub said he had explained to Al-Mirghani the situation in the company adding that Al-Mirghani had expressed his support and voiced the measures. [sentence as received]

Sudan Airways employees have staged last Monday a nine day strike protesting measures which were taken by the government to change the corporation to public company which they said 20 percent of the 2800 total employees will lose their jobs.

The new company director general said the number of the labour force of the company is 1800 persons.

SPLA Radio Cites Attacks on Government Forces

EA031809 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Units of Fashoda Battalion under the command of Major Oyway Deng Ajak ambushed Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops at Waw Shilluk near Malakal town on 20 October 1987. Our correspondent says that Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's troops were driven back to their garrison with heavy casualties in both men and materiel. On the following day, units of Fashoda Battalion also shelled the enemy garrison in Malakal and inflicted heavy casualties in both men and materiel on Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's force. [passage omitted]

Units of (?Bilpam) Battalion, under the combat command of 1st Lieutenant Achile Amume Awur and overall command of Major Dr Lam Akol Ajawin, alternate member of SPLM/SPLA Political Military High Command and zonal commander of northern Upper Nile, carried out a raid on (Awajo) garrison on the western side of the Nile opposite to Malakal town on 21 October 1987. Our correspondent says that many soldiers of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi were killed and others were injured, including the garrison commander. [passage omitted]

Units of Nile Battalion, under the direct command of Captain Dominic Deng Deng and overall command of Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Aweit Akuot, attacked Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia positions inside Abyei town on 23 October 1987, killing five and wounding several others. [passage omitted]

4 'Outlaws' Killed in Blue Nile Province

JN291202 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1010 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Khartoum, 29 Oct (SUNA)—Four outlaws were killed the day before yesterday in a clash with the Armed Forces at Abu Janzir [name as received] village, 12 km south of the Kurmuk area in the Blue Nile Province.

Citing reports from the area, the *Al-Ayyam* newspaper says that two corporals from the Armed Forces were martyred in the fighting.

Anyanya II, Garang Forces Clash in Upper Nile

JN021414 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Khartoum, 2 Nov (SUNA)—The *Al-Ittihad* newspaper has reported that Anyanya II forces recently clashed with outlaws in Fangak in the Upper Nile region. They inflicted serious losses, killing 58 and wounding a large number of outlaws. The Anyanya II forces captured 16 Kalashnikov guns and 2 Degtyarev machineguns.

In the operation, four Anyanya II fighters were martyred. In another development, Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad Shul, Anyanya II information department secretary, denied rumors about a reconciliation between Anyanya II and John Garang's forces in the Upper Nile region.

Tunisia

Libyan Envoy Meets With Prime Minister

LD312325 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Text] Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and interior minister, today received 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's representative to the Arab League. The meeting focused on prospects for a relationship of brotherhood and cooperation between Tunisia and the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Received by Mabruk

LD021306 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Hedi Mabruk met with 'Abd al-'Ati al-'Ubaydi, the Libyan permanent delegate to the Arab League, this morning. This meeting is part of a continuing discussion on the normalization of relations between the two countries, including the restoration of consular representation.

Prime Minister Receives Algerian Official

LD302310 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Mr Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, prime minister and interior minister, received Mr El Hadi Khdiri, Algerian minister of interior and localities, at the government palace in Qasabah this morning. Mr Abdallah Kallal, secretary of state attached to the interior minister, and Mr Messaoud Ait Chalal, the Algerian ambassador to Tunisia, also attended the meeting.

The Algerian minister reported that he had had very good talks with the prime minister and interior minister within the framework of the strong fraternal ties between Tunisia and Algeria.

Mr El Hadi Khdiri stressed that both sides insist on hard, sincere work in order to consolidate good, fraternal, and cooperative relations between the two countries. This effort comes in response to the will of Presidents Habib Bourguiba and Chadli Bendjedid, who are following with great interest the positive developments in relations between the two fraternal countries.

The visiting minister expressed his sincere gratitude for, and appreciation of, the hospitality with which he was met during his current visit to Tunisia.

President Receives Minister

LD302315 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] President Habib Bourguiba today received Mr El Hadi Khdiri, Algerian minister of interior and localities, in the presence of Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, Amor Chedli, and Messaoud Ait Chalal, the Algerian ambassador in Tunis. After the meeting, El Hadi Khdiri said that he had conveyed to the president a message of thanks and cordiality from his brother, Chadli Bendjedid. He added that during the talks the president had recalled the strong ties of brotherhood between President Bendjedid and himself. The president had also reiterated his directives and instructions for promoting constructive bilateral cooperation for the good of the two fraternal peoples.

President Receives Iraqi Envoy, Message

JN291144 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1055 GMT 29 Oct 87

[Text] Tunis, 29 Oct (INA)—Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and Iraqi RCC member, delivered his excellency's message to Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba today.

The message, which was delivered during Sa'dun Shakir Mahmud's meeting with President Bourguiba, deals with bilateral relations, the forthcoming Arab summit conference, and the current Arab situation. During the meeting, the Tunisian president renewed his country's support for Iraq in its legitimate defense of Arab territory against outside aggression.

Prime Minister Receives Arab League's Klibi

LD032327 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] The prime minister received Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi at the government palace in Qasabah this morning. Klibi later said that their talks had covered a number of issues, primarily the positive developments achieved in the Maghreb and the efforts being made to reinforce rapprochement and cooperation among the states of the region.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Arms Deals, Security Ties

LD031417 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1105 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Kuwait, 3 Nov (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Minister of Defense Shaykh Salim Sabah al-Salim has denied that Kuwait is providing military facilities on its territory to foreign circles. He also denied the existence of any military cooperation between Kuwait and foreign navies now in the Arab Gulf.

In a statement to KUNA, he noted that Kuwait does not provide facilities, nor has it agreed to provide these fleets with fuel "because we have not provided and will not make these installations available."

Shaykh Salim explained that according to international law, "we could provide humanitarian facilities in emergencies such as fires, collisions, or similar incidents. We believe that it is our Arab or Kuwaiti custom to provide humanitarian assistance in those cases."

If two warring sides cooperate on such issues as prisoners of war or assisting the wounded, he asked, "how then can such humanitarian cooperation not exist between states that maintain peaceful and normal diplomatic relations?"

Shaykh Salim pointed out that international naval forces have not stopped visiting us in Kuwait, whether they are Russian, French, or British, and that these visitors have long done this. We have come across a picture in Moscow that goes back to the time of the late Shaykh Jabir al-Sabah. This picture was taken on board a Russian ship that had come to Kuwait and is a clear example of the truth of this talk.

He added: "Therefore, these ships and foreign navies in the Gulf do not come under Kuwaiti or GCC law but rather international laws and regulations."

When asked for his assessment of the regional situation and its repercussions on the security of Kuwait, the minister of defense replied that we must realize that Kuwait is not the only center of attention but all the Gulf states are as well.

He added that when the war expands and becomes widespread, it does not stop at certain boundaries; its sparks and shrapnel range out and strike those nearby. Kuwait naturally is the closest to the war zone. If some of these sparks or shrapnel fragments have occasionally struck it, they have not affected Kuwait's national stand towards the Iran-Iraq war.

He explained that if Iran wants to expand the Gulf war, "this means it will bear the responsibility and consequences of this action. We are confident any future escalation would be a great burden upon it since Tehran, as well as any other state, would lose in an increase of hostilities."

Shaykh Salim affirmed that the Armed Forces he leads are ready to die for Kuwait's continued secure and independent existence. He noted: "We take the example of the words of his highness the amir and His Highness Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, heir apparent and prime minister—may God protect Kuwait and its people from ill fortune. When circumstances require it, we will die. We will die so that Kuwait may live."

He added: "This is the policy formulated by [Amir] Jabir and Sa'd. It is our beacon, one that shows us the way."

As for the precautionary measures the Kuwaiti Armed Forces have adopted to confront any Iranian attack, Shaykh Salim explained that these continue according to the defense policy. (?Most) of this plan has been implemented to deter external missile attacks against Kuwait and prevent these missiles from reaching Kuwaiti territory.

He added that the Ministry of Defense has not stopped at this, but still maintains direct contacts with arms manufacturers—whether in the United States, the Soviet Union, France, or Britain—to obtain specialized weapons for use against these missiles. This is because there are weapons that are effective in opposing these missiles. They are basically made for other things such as air defense. We possess some of them.

Shaykh Salim explained: When we attempt to acquire such weapons, we make certain we are buying what is suited to the capabilities of the Kuwaiti Army. While sophisticated or advanced weapons may be available, they require personnel who possess the technological skills to use them. We might not be able to employ these weapons effectively should we acquire them now.

He added that there may be difficulty in obtaining advanced, highly effective arms that our forces can quickly master. However, we do not accept every weapon that comes to us until we have examined it and have assured ourselves of its suitability and high quality.

The Kuwaiti minister of defense stated that contacts are still underway through Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, in his talks with other states, and through our direct contacts for obtaining these weapons.

Shaykh Salim today received in his office General George Crist, commander of the U.S. Central Command in the Gulf, who is currently visiting the Kingdom.

He also met with French Ambassador to Kuwait Marcel Laugel.

The minister of defense told KUNA that in his talks with these two officials, he had discussed the question of supplying Kuwait with effective arms to meet external attacks. This is part of the ministry's plan to complete its defense policies.

He added that there is also other equipment which is considered complementary and which is deployed to repel such attacks. This equipment is manufactured in Kuwait by Kuwaiti workers, with the assistance of foreign technical precision, foreign expertise, and other matters and preparations that are military secrets.

Shaykh Salim noted that "there are some matters and requirements we have raised at the meeting of the Supreme Defense Council, which will complete our defensive plan for Kuwait."

He added that as for measures and the training program to be carried out by the Armed Forces, the Ministry of Defense has made certain its personnel are properly educated so that they can keep pace with advanced arms industrial activity in the Arab (?and) foreign states.

Shaykh Salim stressed that Kuwait's security is stable internally and externally due to the Kuwaiti people's solidarity and their rallying around their father and leader, his highness the amir. This was beautifully evident during the visit of his highness to the governorates and his meeting with the people. He added that we are confident that the brother officers and soldiers will make every possible sacrifice to maintain stability and security in Kuwait.

He noted that his recent meetings with officers at the ministry or in the field will continue. These meetings are natural and not something new. However, they are now attracting attention and have come about due to changing regional developments. Shaykh Salim added that his own meetings and those of senior officers with his highness the amir are always a guiding light for us. He commented that his highness is always eager to learn about the latest developments in the Armed Forces, such as military formations. His highness gives them his directives and explains the general policy of Kuwait. This includes meetings held with Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-'Abdallah, who during these meetings acquaints himself with difficulties affecting the Ministry of Defense in the fields of arms, the budget, and issues of interest to officers. The latter are guided by his directives and heed his advice. Shaykh Salim referred to the very close relations between his highness the heir apparent and the officers. These ties date back to the period when his highness served as minister of defense. He thus knows most officers personally.

Shaykh Salim al-Sabah then discussed a recent incident in which two missiles were fired at an imaginary target. The Ministry of Defense later explained this by stating that weather conditions had fooled the radar after a strange object appeared. Shaykh Salim al-Sabah pointed out that natural factors could negatively affect radar by giving the appearance of vibrations and distortions. A particular ability to detect these is needed, for if an unknown object appears, missiles must be launched rapidly since officials will not have enough time to reconsider the launch order. These are the orders we gave our officers some time ago.

He added that on the day of the incident, a friendly target initially appeared on our radar screens. We requested that it move outside our borders. It complied, but as it was leaving the zone, another strange object caused by weather conditions appeared. We then asked the friendly side if it was their target. They replied no to this question. At this point the target was approaching us, and radar locked on it. This initiated the alarm system after the imaginary target entered the restricted zone, where no dialogue with it was possible. Immediate action was necessary. The officer thus had no option but to fire at the target and carry out the command's orders.

Shaykh Salim noted that these missiles were fired at the target according to the radar's commands. However, they failed to collide with an actual target since the latter was actually imaginary, as we initially stated. Our missiles thus naturally exploded in midair.

The Kuwaiti minister of defense explained that this incident was an excellent practical lesson for the Armed Forces. It allowed them to prove their strength, ability to follow up, eagerness, and meticulous execution of orders. They deserve thanks and appreciation for their resolve and confidence in their ability to maintain the security and independence of Kuwait.

In reviewing some Western analyses and reports that claim the GCC states have proven ineffective in militarily defending member countries, Shaykh Salim stressed that these are an abortive attempt to raise doubt about the strength of the GCC. The aim of this is to serve certain objectives of those parties circulating these reports. He added that the Gulf Peninsula Shield Force, along with all its formations stationed and trained at the Saudi base named after King Khalid—who is now deceased—is available to every country that contributes to it in case of any outside aggression against these states. Some may ask, he added, whether circumstances now mean it is time to try out the Peninsula Shield Force. He replied that we do not believe that this force will hesitate to come if called. There have been times when we were on the verge of calling it. In fact, we considered it, and unofficial talks took place about this.

He explained that there is a certain procedure and measures agreed upon among GCC leaders and kings for requesting the Peninsula Shield. If this force were called

in to Kuwait, for example, it would be incorporated within the Kuwaiti Armed Forces under the command of Kuwaiti officials.

Saudi Arabia

Crown Prince To Represent King at Arab Summit

LD031518 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1402 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Al-Madinah, 3 Nov (SPA)—A statement issued by the Royal Court notes: On behalf of King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, His Royal Highness Prince 'Abdallah ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, crown prince, deputy prime minister, and commander of the National Guard, will lead the Kingdom's delegation to the emergency Arab summit conference scheduled to be held in Amman on 8 November.

May God grant us all success for the sake of the Arab nation and the support of its causes.

Al-Qadhdhafi Remarks, 'Accusations' Refuted

LD031936 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1854 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Riyadh, 3 Nov (SPA)—We comment on JANA's report citing the news conference given by Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi yesterday in Tripoli in which he stated:

"Saudi Arabia, instead of making contributions to help rebuild our cities destroyed by the U.S.-NATO aggression, has financed and paid for the U.S.-French weaponry used by the imperialist-reactionary alliance against the southern border of the Jamahiriyah. [no closing quotation marks as received] In a subsequent paragraph of the text carried by JANA, President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi declared: "Gulf oil money has not contributed to rebuilding our cities, and the rich oil countries have not sided with Libya in confronting the NATO attack." One should also mention what the Libyan president announced in the news conference concerning his decision not to attend the summit conference and his reasons for this.

SPA's political editor comments: Arab political and information circles, particulary those in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, were surprised at what President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi said during his news conference, as well as by his accusations against the stands of the Kingdom. These accusations pass beyond the limits of truth, as is well known by all those in the Arab and Islamic worlds, and in international circles. Our stances are firm and honorable. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has fulfilled all its financial and moral commitments stemming from Arab and Islamic summits. It has always stood in the forefront of countries that respect their pledges and attempt to honor them under all circumstances. The best proof of this is the firmness of its stance toward the pledges it made at the Baghdad summit. These are commitments that it still adheres to. This is in contrast to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, whose pledge, as all Arab leaders know, is $400 million. This amount was promised toward the consolidation of the brothers in Syria and Jordan and the struggle of the Palestinian people, who have been represented by the PLO for more than 10 years. Libya has yet to pay, for reasons unknown to us, even $1. This is while the Arab countries of the Gulf, due to their conviction and devotion to the concept of brotherly Arab cooperation, have paid Libya's financial share for 2 years in a row. Thus, which of the two countries has been more faithful to its commitments? Which of the two states has done more for the good of the Arab community at all levels?

As for the stand of the Kingdom vis-a-vis the brotherly Libyan Jamahiriyah: It has been nothing but one of sincerity, amity, and respect. This is despite all the crossroads where Saudi-Libyan relations have diverged, due to some actions by the Libyan leadership that the Kingdom overlooked, in order to maintain an Arab unity of ranks and avoid escalating differences among brothers.

Concerning the statement by President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi that the Kingdom purchased U.S. and French arms used by the imperialist alliance against the Jamahiriyah: This claim is rejected and refuted by established facts. There is absolutely no case in which the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has purchased a single piece of weaponry used against any Arab country. On the contrary, the opposite is true. Whatever arms and ammunition the Kingdom has obtained with its money have been used to defend the Arab nation and support its steadfastness, and, consequently, to defend the homeland and the sacred things it represents.

We do not need to point out in this brief statement that the Kingdom has been and still is a source of aid and support to its sisters in the Arab and Islamic worlds. It has not been, even for a moment, the source of evil or conspiracy against any Arab or foreign country. It has not been tied to anyone in its domestic or foreign policies. The Kingdom has not entered into alliances with anyone against the interests of another country. It owes nothing to anyone except God. As for President al-Qadhdhafi's stance toward the emergency Arab summit, his declaration that he will not attend for the reasons he gave, and that he will call for another conference on the issues he mentioned: This is his own affair. We shall not comment on it except from two angles.

First, he claimed that this summit was called by the United States to discuss U.S. interests that are now endangered. But we know that the idea for this conference stemmed from a joint Arab wish. King Husayn ibn Talal of Jordan is the one who called for it. This meeting will discuss issues of the Arab nation and look for suitable solutions. The conference enjoys the support and approval of all Arab countries.

Second, we wonder: Did His Excellency President Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi attend all the Islamic summits, at which all Islamic countries in the world were represented, that discussed Muslim issues and supported issues of the Islamic nation? Furthermore, did his excellency attend all the Arab summits that were held to discuss affairs of the Arab nation and to serve its destiny? If the answer is no, which is the correct answer, then it is not surprising that his excellency declares he will not participate in the Amman emergency Arab summit, to which we wish every success.

Israel Aids Khomeyni To Maintain Tehran's Policy
LD040535 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Commentary by Husayn al-'Askari]

[Text] An Israeli medical team is now in Tehran to supervise treatment of an ailment affecting Iranian leader Khomeyni. This is to ensure that Israel can continue to benefit from Khomeyni's physical ailments.

The news that an Israeli medical team had traveled to Iran to examine Khomeyni came as no surprise, given the developing relations between Tehran and Tel Aviv. The ties in question are growing through an exchange of visits between officials of the two countries. These visits go beyond merely seeking Israeli expertise in Iran's war against Iraq, beyond merely acquiring Israeli arms and arms from other foreign countries that Israel could import for Tehran. Some of the strange elements in this affair are quickly evident. They display Israel's secret concern for the health of Khomeyni and the need for Jewish medical experts to aid the Iranian leader.

The fundamental cause for such interest is not Israel's desire for Khomeyni to physically recover: Israel attaches no importance to this. Indeed, it does not occupy itself with this at all. No, the most important thing to Israel is that it not lose the governing style that Iran's leader and rulers employ, a very unique style based on a rare stupidity and naivety. This style is evinced by Iran's rulers throwing themselves into Israel's arms to obtain what they foolishly consider sincere advice and selfless support for their war against Iraq.

The Israelis, however, view this matter with malice and shrewdness. They consider Tehran's eagerness to throw itself at their feet as a golden opportunity, one to be exploited in their battle against the Islamic nation in general and especially against the Arabs. This is what remains hidden to the shallow thinking of the Tehran rulers, who deal with pressing issues illogically.

In this context, the image of Israel's concern for the physical ailments and illnesses of Iranian leaders disappears. Israel does not care about the leader's health, but only wants to ensure the continuation of his policy and practices, which it regards as gains. It very much wants to see this policy continue. Israel thus treats the physical ailments of Tehran's leader so it can benefit from these ailments. The Tehran rulers have accordingly proven beyond any doubt that they stand in the same trench as Israel. They are no longer ashamed of this because they are, as they claim, defending their collapsing existence. They are even prepared to ally themselves with the devil himself—and this is what they have done!

Ramadan Departs for Amman To Brief Husayn

JN031011 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0924 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, left for Amman this morning.

Ramadan told INA that he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan from his brother President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with bilateral relations, the current Arab situation, particularly the Iraq-Iran war, and the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to open in Amman soon.

The first deputy prime minister said that he will brief King Husayn and the Jordanian brothers on recent developments in the Iraq-Iran war. He will also confirm Iraq's position on and acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598, as well as its full implementation, and Iraq's readiness to annihilate any Iranian aggression.

Ramadan added that he and King Husayn will discuss the topics to be covered at the Amman summit. He said that the Iraq-Iran war is the major issue to be discussed at the summit with the objective of producing strong pan-Arab resolutions capable of foiling all conspiracies and aggressions against the Arab countries.

Ramadan stressed that the Iraqi leadership, particularly President Saddam Husayn, hopes that the brother Arab kings, presidents, and amirs will assume their pan-Arab and historic responsibilities based on Iraq's firm pan-Arab principles, its awareness of threats to the Arab nation, and the importance of Arab solidarity in preventing the expansion of such threats. He emphasized that Iraq, which has held firm and achieved victory over the Iranian aggressors throughout the last 7 years on its own and under difficult circumstances, is also capable of confronting the Zionist Khomeyniite aggression alone.

Ramadan expressed hope that any summit resolutions would benefit the Arab nation. He also hoped that the Arab brothers would express their true Arabism at this summit in a way that would restore to the Arab masses their strength and deep confidence in the Arab nation's present and future, regardless of how fierce the foreign plots and local treasons are.

Ramadan was seen off by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and a number of other ministers.

Returns From Amman 3 Nov

JN031645 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1605 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, Iraqi RCC member and first deputy prime minister, returned here today following a short visit to Jordan. During his visit, the Iraqi first deputy prime minister conveyed a message from his excellency President Saddam Husayn to King Husayn of Jordan on bilateral relations and the current Arab situation, particularly the Iraq-Iran war and the extraordinary Arab summit scheduled to be held in Amman soon.

Paper Views Al-Asad Summit Participation

JN010535 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1705 GMT 31 Oct 87

[Excerpts] In today's issue, the *Al-Tharwah* newspaper publishes an article entitled "Amman Extraordinary Summit Between Pan-Arab Historical Responsibilities and Treasonous, Defeatist Stands." The article notes the following:

[Passage omitted on reasons for the Arab foreign ministers' decision to convene an extraordinary summit] We hear these days that the Abu Righal [an Arab in pre-Islamic history who reportedly helped the Abyssinians invade Arabia] of the 20th century, the traitor Hafiz al-Asad, will attend the Amman extraordinary summit. He will attend despite his foreign minister's reservations over the resolution to convene the summit because this summit considers the Iraq-Iran war and the security of the Gulf states to be the primary topic to be discussed. The traitor Hafiz said that he would attend the conference because many other issues will be discussed. However, we know precisely what the aim of this ignoble ally of the Zionist, Iranian rulers is. We know why he will attend. From the first, we knew that he was going to attend the conference for the following reasons:

1. He knows that he will be unable to convince other states not to attend the conference, as he did in the Amman and Fes summits. In this case, he would be the only one deviating from the Arab arena and consensus—the natural position of traitors and the inevitable fate of such traitors, regardless of how long they will live.

2. The Baghdad summit resolution to support Syria financially has become obsolete. For the past 10 years, this traitor has been receiving $1.8 billion annually. These Arab funds were earmarked for building up the Syrian Army to liberate the Golan Heights and the other occupied Arab territories and to prevent repeated Zionist aggressions against the Arab nation. Hafiz al-Asad will attend the conference, believing that the summit will provide an opportunity to bring up the issue of Arab financial assistance, to renew the Baghdad summit resolution under the cover of the Palestinian cause—his usual method—and to realize strategic parity, as he says.

3. The third reason for Hafiz al-Asad's presence at the summit, despite his foreign minister's objection and the Damascus media campaigns against it, is that Al-Asad's allies in Qom and Tehran will advise him to attend so that he might disrupt it. Also, failing that, he could weaken its resolutions in order to exacerbate differences among the Arab presidents and kings with the aim of reducing their interest in discussing the Iraq-Iran war in a serious and detailed manner, and engaging them in other issues.

For these reasons and for others, we were certain that the agent Al-Asad would attend the conference. However, we want to say this to the Arab leaders who will attend the Amman summit in a few days: Is it right to allow the presence of this enemy of the Arabs, who is an ally of the Zionist Iranians, to be the cause of the failure to adopt the required resolution representing the Arab desire, particularly after the recent events following the Arab foreign ministers' conference and the escalation of the Iranian regime's aggressions against the Arab territories, especially fraternal Kuwait?

We ask the Arab leaders to look carefully at the behavior of this Arab ruler who makes wrong decisions. They should consider whether or not his behavior was intentional. We do not blame them if they remain in contact with this or that mistaken ruler, provided his mistakes are unintentional. Indeed, they should give such a ruler broader opportunities to guide him and to establish intensive contacts with him and his aides so that they can steer him away from errors.

We will go even further and say that we do not blame the Arab rulers if they extend assistance to the deviating ruler in order to give him an additional opportunity to desist and understand. They should not abandon him, because he could return to the pan-Arab position.

Despite all this, we wonder, like every honest Arab: What is [words indistinct] Hafiz al-Asad since he assumed power in 1970? Frankly, he is responsible for everything that took place and is taking place in the Arab arena—in Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, and Iraq—in terms of bloody incidents. Otherwise, how can we interpret this man's actions against Arabs? Can we say that he misjudged the Iraq-Iran war? Can we say that he made a mistake or that his action is a simple deviation for a limited time period in striking at and killing Palestinian children, women, and old people, and besieging them in the Tal al-Za'tar camp for many months in order to annihilate the sons of Palestine, whom he continuously claims to be struggling to liberate inch by inch?

Can any wise man say that it was a mere mistake when he besieged the city of Hamah in Syria and the city of Tripoli in Lebanon with rocket launchers, T-72 tanks, and heavy artillery, or when he killed hundreds of women and children, the old and the young, and destroyed their houses only because their opinions do not coincide with Al-Asad's treasonous, capitulationist ideas? No, Arab leaders. The Syrian ruler's actions and behavior are those of a traitor, one who has gone too far with his treason. The Arab leaders who will meet in Amman in a few days must treat this traitor as he deserves. It is no secret that after a long silence the Arab masses will speak frankly and question anyone who attempts to conceal this traitor's treachery or give him another opportunity to play his suspect role at this summit.

We call on the Arab rulers to seriously discuss the Zionist-Khomeyniite aggression against the Arab nation. Any genuine, honest Arab should immediately call for a comprehensive Arab boycott and a true and actual implementation of the collective Arab Defense Pact. We say frankly, along with all Arab masses, that any flattery, amiable behavior, or conciliatory moves toward the Syrian ruler and his disgraceful actions on the part of the Arab leaders will mean that they attach undeserved importance to those traitors. This will be at the expense of pan-Arab trust and Arab existence. The Arab rulers will be responsible before history if they take such action. History will have no mercy on such actions and positions. Our Arab history is full of lessons in which the Arab masses have revolted against traitor rulers no matter how long they remain in power. We must benefit from these lessons, particularly as we are the sons of this nation and are aware of its values and struggle.

We are confident that the traitorous Syrian ruler will bring up for discussion the Palestinian question and Syria's role in this regard. He will also ask for more funds to achieve an alleged strategic military parity to confront the Zionist aggression. We frankly tell the Arab rulers that they must address this traitor ruler openly and firmly, because this is their right, and ask him where the funds he has received throughout the last 10 years have gone, the $18 billion? The Arab rulers should ask just as the Arab masses ask: Has this ruler liberated Hamah from the Zionists with these funds? Has he liberated Aleppo and Palmera from the Jews? Has he liberated Tal al-Za'tar and the other camps, the city of Tripoli, the Beirut quarters from the Zionists? Has he confronted the aggression through the explosions he caused inside and outside the Arab homeland, using these funds to create further destruction and distortion of the Arab image in the world? What has Al-Asad done with these funds; what will he do with more? Are there still Arab cities that his hand—stained with the blood of plotting, treason, and sabotage—cannot reach? Any dirham given to the Syrian ruler by any Arab ruler will be considered actual participation in this traitor's disgraceful and conspiratorial actions against the sons of the Arab people in Syria, Palestine, Lebanon, and even Iraq. The task of this summit is to put matters on the right course. Enough of flattering traitors.

Flexibility toward deviationists and traitors who have signed statements of treason and conspiracies against the Arabs is rejected and unacceptable. That is why any normal dealings, let alone cordial ones, with the traitors mean actual participation with them in betraying the Arab nation and bestow the stamp of legitimacy on this treasonous trend. This will ultimately lead to the expansion of the circle of traitors.

From this premise, we say to the Arab leaders at the Amman summit: You must not fall victim to the pressures of this traitor and trickster who seeks to dampen the Arabs' will to boycott Iran. You must also tell this traitor if he speaks, and he will certainly do so: You have

no right to discuss this subject because you have adopted the Iranian policy and course. Therefore, you have placed yourself in the same trench with the Iranians who pursue their aggression against Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia.

Having given him many opportunities to rejoin the pan-Arab fold, the Arab rulers at the Amman summit must say to the traitor ruler of Syria: Either you stand with the Arabs in words and deeds, or you establish yourself in the quagmire of treason which you have taken upon yourself. Then the Arabs should adopt the same stand that they will adopt toward the Tehran regime. We mean a comprehensive boycott.

We are confident that the Arab leaders are well aware of the status of this ruler among his people and of his treasonous behavior toward the Arabs. During their meetings behind closed doors, the Arab leaders have often spoken about this treasonous behavior. Even those who are believed to be friends of this traitor or close to him cannot defend the behavior of this criminal unless they defend treasonous positions.

The Arab masses are pained and bitter at seeing that some Arab rulers continue to carry out normal dealings with this ruler in spite of his crimes, treason, and agentry. There are some shortsighted rulers who believe that this traitor is the key to the nation's future and unity and that without him the nation will remain weak. They believe this in spite of their knowledge that the Syrian ruler is disrupting the Arab ranks and supporting the aggressor enemies against the brothers.

We regret to say that these rulers who remain silent on the treasonous stands of Hafiz al-Asad will proceed on the same treasonous course, if they are not roused by their sense of Arab honor. We believe that treason is a germ, a malignant disease which can only be treated by extirpation and amputation. If this germ finds fertile ground, it will spread and contaminate others. This will lead to further tragedies for the Arab nation.

However, we are fully confident that our Arab nation, although harboring elements alien to its noble character and values, will remain strong to confront local and foreign conspiracies. This nation will discard the symbols of treason and defeatism to become stronger and more immune in order to protect its values, principles, and future. The fate of the leader of the traitors in Syria is a gloomy one; he is an unprecedented specimen in Arab history. Future generations will curse him and will stone him when he dies. Future generations will also curse him for his odious actions against the Arabs and their glorious nation.

'Aziz Sends Letter to UN on Missile Attack

JN021749 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] United Nations, Nov 2, INA—Iraq informed the Security Council today that the criminal regime of Iran on Friday launched a ground-to-ground missile at a residential quarter of Baghdad, causing deaths and injuries among the civilian population and destroying or damaging civilian property.

In a letter addressed to UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, [Tariq 'Aziz], Iraqi Deputy prime minister and foreign minister, noted that, "at the precise time when the international community is preparing to enforce Security Council Resolution 598, according to appropriate procedures, so that peace may be achieved, we see that the Iranian regime persists in its aggression and crimes against Iraqi civilians in an effort to reopen the war of the cities, spread confusion and hold the international community hostage."

At the same time, Mr.'Aziz said, the Tehran regime "persists in its aggression against the countries of the region, as could be seen recently when it launched a missile against Kuwaiti civilian installations."

In his letter Mr. 'Aziz called for the condemnation of "this execrable aggressor regime," and for the international community to impose sanctions in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations in order to punish that regime for its refusal to implement Security Council Resolution 598 and "its persistent aggression and violation of human rights and international law."

"Ignoring the execrable actions of this regime, its abominable crimes and its violations of the rules governing the conduct of states, instead of taking the necessary drastic measures against it," Mr 'Aziz stated, "can only encourage it to continue its criminal policy, odious behavior and aggression, and its threats to the peace and security of the region. Iraq will not let these crimes go unpunished and, at the appropriate moment, will inflict on Iran an exemplary punishment" the letter stated in conclusion.

Envoy Confirms Attacks Continue

JN040653 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0615 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] United Nations, 4 Nov (INA)—Iraq has informed the United Nations that the Iranian regime continues to shell strictly residential areas in Iraq.

In a message to UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar last night, Iraq's permanent UN representative 'Ismat Kittani said that the Iranian regime had shelled the city of Basra and the surrounding areas during the 27-29 October period. He added that the Iranian shelling martyred 10 civilians and wounded 57 others, most of them women and children, and destroyed civilian property.

Combat Operations Against Iran Continue

Communique No 2,896

JN021724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1700 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Communique No. 2,896 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 2 November]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionte. Our Armed Forces continue their combat activities with great courage and supremacy. The following is a roundup of these activities for last night and today:

1. Three infantry positions were destroyed, one scoundrel was killed, and six vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed in the I Army Corps northern sector.

2. One medium machinegun and two machinegun emplacements were destroyed and their occupants were killed in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

3. One enemy soldier was killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

4. Three vehicles and one 60-mm mortar were set ablaze and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris.

5. The enemy engineering effort was pounded and one infantry position was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

6. Three enemy gunboats tried to approach the port of Al-'Amiq. The port's force pounded them with its weapons, forcing them to flee toward the Iranian coast.

7. The criminal enemy shelled the outskirts of Basra with long-range artillery yesterday. The enemy shelling martyred one civilian. Mercy to our martyr.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 2 November 1987

Communique No 2,897

JN031832 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1708 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 3 Nov (INA)—[Passage omitted] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. [passage omitted on Prophet Muhammad's birthday]

The following is a roundup of our troops' activities for last night and today:

1. One machinegun was destroyed and the personnel manning it were killed in the I Special Corps sector, by the God is Great Forces.

2. One machinegun position and another infantry position were destroyed and the personnel manning them were killed in the II Army Corps Central sector.

3. Our units in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah engaged the enemy troops in front of them and managed to achieve the following: four enemy troops were killed; one wheeled bulldozer (shovel), one (boclain) excavator, and one vehicle were destroyed; two infantry positions and another heavy machinegun position were destroyed; and one ammunition dump was exploded.

4. Three scoundrels were killed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

5. Four enemy personnel were killed in the VI Army Corps sector east of Tigris.

6. One vehicle was burned and destroyed, another one was damaged, and one ammunition dump was exploded in the VII Army Corps sector.

The Armed Forces General Command, 3 November 1987.

French Prime Minister Concludes Visit 3 Nov

Supports Talks Role for PLO

*TA031637 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1500 GMT 3 Nov 87*

[Report by foreign affairs correspondent Sari'el Shani—live]

[Text] I have never met Yasir 'Arafat and I have no plans to do so, French Prime Minister Jacques Chirac said today before he left for Paris. At the same time, Chirac expressed renewed support for the idea of the PLO's incorporation in Middle East peace negotiations.

The PLO, which is considered by some Palestinians to be their sole representative, is a reality that cannot be denied. It must be taken into consideration. On the other hand, in my view it would be impossible to consider the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian nation, Jacques Chirac said. When we speak of the peace process we all desire with all our hearts, the French prime minister said, it seems obvious to me that in one way or another the PLO will have to be incorporated and consulted on such a process. Chirac added that the establishment of a third state between Jordan and Israel, meaning a Palestinian state, is a complicated problem that must be solved mainly by the Middle East countries. But he reiterated support for the Palestinian nation's right to self-determination.

Promises Aid to West Bank

*TA041320 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew
4 Nov 87 p 2*

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] French Premier Jacques Chirac told a delegation of Palestinians from the territories that as long as Yitzhaq Shamir is Israeli prime minister, there will be no international conference. He reached this conclusion after talks with Israeli leaders.

Chirac met with the delegation in the French Consulate building in East Jerusalem. The meeting was also attended by the French ministers of foreign affairs and of science and technology. The personalities invited to the meeting favor a Jordanian-Palestinian dialogue, a fact which reflects France's wish to revive this dialogue. Chirac promised to assist various institutions in the territories, including universities. Our correspondent notes that this point, too, reflects France's differences with Israel and Jordan, the latter two preferring to include the development of institutions, including a new network of universities, in the 5-year plan. [passage omitted]

Reaffirms Soviet, Syrian Stance

*LD032119 Paris Domestic Service in French
1800 GMT 3 Nov 87*

[Text] Jacques Chirac is returning tonight to Paris following a 3-day visit to Israel. Before boarding his plane, the prime minister was showered with questions with regard to the statements he made yesterday vis-a-vis the persecuted Jews, be they the refuseniks of the Soviet Union or the Syrian Jewish community. Will this not make for some diplomatic clouds with Damascus and Moscow, he was asked by Patrick Jaquin. Here is his answer:

Our relations with Syria are good on the political as well as the economic level. I have no doubt whatsoever that the reaffirmation—which, I would say, is about something which is purely and simply the respect of human rights, an attitude which I have always had—is the sort of thing that might change something in this domain. Certainly this will not suprise the Syrians. It is what I have said about the Soviet Union many times. This does not mean that I have bad relations with the Soviet leaders. When it is a question of human rights, as you know, one should not be aggressive. It is useless because it can be counterproductive. On the other hand, one should not hide from the facts.

Peres Reacts to Gorbachev Book, Landau Report

*TA030822 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0600 GMT 3 Nov 87*

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and foreign minister, by political correspondent 'Oz Frankel at Peres' office in Jerusalem and by Mikha Friedman and Ilana Dayan at the IDF Radio Tel Aviv Studio—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, good morning to you. Sir, I would like to read to you a passage from a book which you have not yet read as it appeared only yesterday in the USSR and the United States simultaneously. The name of the book is *Perestroika and the New Thinking*, by Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. The Soviet leader writes as follows: If the international conference does not turn into an umbrella and cover for separate moves and deals, if it is intended to achieve a true solution in the Middle East which will take into consideration the interests of the Arab countries, the Palestinians, and Israel, we will be ready to extend all the aid we can and to participate in all stages of such a conference. We will of course play a constructive role in such a conference. Would you sign your name to this definition by Gorbachev?

[Peres] No, I do not normally sign what others write. I have my own pen and know the alphabet. I do my own writing.

[Friedman] What disturbs you with regard to this definition?

[Peres] I am not very disturbed by it. It is simply too general and does not address itself to the issues on the agenda. I must say, however, that the Soviet stance has softened. As for this passage which you read from the book, it seems to me that there has never been a Soviet leader who expressed himself in such a balanced manner, from Israel's point of view, as Gorbachev. In my recent talk with Shevardnadze as well, the Russians did not use their usual Russian language codes regarding the international conference—namely, that this should be an authoritative [last word in English], deciding, or dynamic conference. None of this was raised. I also hear that the Soviet Union is not insisting on the conference having the authority to impose or intervene. At the same time, there is some vagueness about the Soviet position which should be clarified.

[Friedman] Our political correspondent 'Oz Frankel is next to you, sir. Go ahead, 'Oz.

[Frankel] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said a few weeks ago that the Soviet Union has legitimate interests in the Middle East. He spoke of the possibility of a dialogue between Jerusalem and Moscow. Today there is also talk of a formula which was brought by Shultz and which may be acceptable to both of you. Do you feel that Shamir's position and yours have grown closer?

[Peres] I heard Mr Shamir last night and did not feel that our positions have grown closer. I...

[Frankel, interrupting] Was this during the dinner given in Chirac's honor, where Shamir said he was opposed to an international conference?

[Peres] Yes. The Soviet Union surely has a role—a legitimate one—which does not depend on us. The problem is not one of granting the USSR a role. It has that. The problem is what sort of role it will actually play: one of bridging differences or of exacerbating disagreements, as was the case in the past.

[Dayan] If there is a rapprochment between you and Mr Shamir, it is reflected at least in the fact that Shamir has also started meeting with Husayn.

[Peres] The problem is not that of rapprochement between Mr Shamir and myself because we are not at a war with each other. The problem is that of conducting negatiations with the Arab side, and it is impossible to conduct peace negotiations with Arabs without the Arabs in attendance at such negotiations. The problem is not only that of the Soviet Union's stance. Jordan clearly agreed to a conference which would not impose or intervene, to a conference which would serve as an opening followed by direct peace negotiations. I do not see the point of putting this matter off. Again, developments in Israel are not the only issue. In fact, almost the entire world suports the following scenario: an international opening, as was the case in Geneva in the past. It does not understand why we are suddenly frightened and scared after we showed enormous courage once in the past and nothing happened to us. We did attend the Geneva conference. Anyone who views our postponement of the beginning of the peace negotiations by another year as an achievement is mistaken. Even when we do not do anything or think of anything, reality continues to be of a dynamic nature, with its demographic and security factors.

[Friedman] Could it be, sir, that at one of the times when you were traveling on the 'Arava road northward, you saw the prime minister's car pass next to you in the opposite direction, with Shamir racing to a secret meeting with King Husayn?

[Peres] No. First of all, I do not race cars because this could cause road accidents. In any event, I have not seen such a car.

[Frankel] We are referring to the prime minister.

[Peres] I have not seen any racing, nor is this the problem.

[Friedman] Nevertheless, Shamir is prepared to meet with Husayn. He has declared so publicly, more than once. I think he also repeated this yesterday. In view of the positions of the two sides, do you see any chance that Husayn will receive Shamir for a talk?

[Peres] Again, in my opinion, if we want to enter negotiations, I do not see the slightest chance that Husayn will enter real negotiations with us without an international opening. This is vital for him. It is not a caprice. If he does not do this, he will risk the economic aid he receives from the Arab world. There is no substitute for this aid. The Soviets do not have the money, the Americans do not have the budget, and Husayn does not have a sound economy. We must be realistic. We cannot play with words all the time and avoid realistic decisions. Husayn is also afraid that if he enters negotiations with us on his own, without the PLO or anybody else, he will be faced with a hostile coalition which will include the USSR, Syria, and the PLO. Could anyone cope with these problems? Look, what use is there in all of us beating around the bush instead of addressing the real problems in a realistic manner?

[Frankel] Mr Peres, you must have read the Landau Commission report which was released last Friday. The report points to a very grave phenomenon: For 16 years Shin Bet investigators have lied to courts in pretrials. Yet nobody knew of this—neither the judges, nor the prosecution, nor the political echelon, nor the prime minister. You served as prime minister for 2 years. How could such a phenomenon come about?

[Peres] First, this did not happen often, and the incidents in question refer to pretrials—namely, to the method of investigation. In the report itself the commission members indicate the difficult dilemmas which Shin Bet people faced. They cite the example of a house which is about to be blown up or a boat with a bomb planted on it: What should be done in such a case? Should an attempt be made to exert psychological or harsher pressures on the people involved? There is indeed a real problem here, and it would be pointless to evade it. It is the problem of a democratic, lawful state confronting an organization which is neither democratic nor law-abiding, an organization which is prepared to murder women and children and plant bombs. What should be done? How should the state be defended?

I do not accept a simplistic approach to this subject. I heard on the BBC this morning—and we are speaking of Britain, an orderly country with 1,000 years of democracy behind it—that 16 people, if I am not mistaken, were jailed for 13 years for nothing at all. I also heard that Mrs Thatcher has appointed a special ombudsman for the British equivalent of the Shin Bet affair. This shows that nobody can run away from these real problems. This report also reflects internal struggles when it deals with what it calls the lesser of two evils. The lesser of two evils is also evil.

[Friedman] Nonetheless, lies were told not only to the courts but also to prime ministers, at least in one particular and well-known case: the No. 300 Ashqelon bus case. You, as prime minister at the time, did not receive a true report when this case surfaced. Does this not frighten you?

[Peres] No, you are mistaken. I did not request, nor did I receive, a report on the No. 300 bus case. The incident took place prior to my term in the Prime Minister's Office, and my policy was not to check into my predecessors' actions. Thus, I neither asked questions nor received answers on this. Nevertheless, if there was a lie involved, it was uncovered. When I became prime minister—people tend to forget this—the entire No. 300 bus affair was already subject to a judicial process, moving from one judicial commission to another, and I did not think that I, as prime minister, had to interfere in this process. The matter of uncovering truth or the lack of it is a subject for a judicial process first and foremost.

[Frankel] Are you at peace with the recommendation that the Shin Bet investigators should not be prosecuted and that personal conclusions should not be drawn about those involved in this grave phenomenon?

[Peres] There is a real moral problem here. Look, if there is no code or law, it is very difficult to complain about somebody who breaks it. If there is a precedent, it is all the more difficult. Therefore, this commission first tried to determine a precedent, a norm, and a code. Whoever violates this from now on will surely be penalized. Very ditinguished people, some of the most distinguished people in Israel, tackled this problem. I assume they had many internal struggles and I respect their conclusion.

[Friedman] Sir, the vice prime minister and foreign minister, thank you.

[Peres] Thank you.

USSR Shows No Flexibility in Conference Stance

TA301132 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 30 Oct 87 pp A1, 2

[Report by Refa'el Mann and Shefi Gabay]

[Text] Normalization in USSR-Israeli relations is not possible as long as Israel neither withdraws from the occupied territories nor recognizes the rights of the Palestinians. Moscow insists on the participation of the PLO in an international conference in which the five permanent members of the UN Security Council take part. This was said by senior Soviet officials in talks held recently with representatives of the Netherlands.

The Netherlands, which represents Israel's interests in Moscow, reported to Jerusalem that there was no sign of flexibility in the Soviet position, as had been reported after Foreign Minister Peres' talk with his Soviet counterpart in New York last month.

The Soviet officials turned down a Netherlands request to permit the exodus of Jews from the Soviet Union, reiterating their claim that this was a "domestic problem."

On the subject of direct negotiations in the framework of an international conference, the Soviet officials said there must also be direct negotiations between Israel and the PLO. The new U.S. peace plan, as presented by U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz to his Soviet counterpart Shevardnadze, refers to an interim Israeli-Jordanian agreement to be reached in negotiations under limited U.S.-Soviet auspices. The aim is that following this agreement similar accords will be reached under the same umbrella. All the agreements will later be presented to the international conference for endorsement.

The main features of the U.S. plan were shown to Nayif Hawatimah, leader of the DFLP terrorist organization, by the Soviet foreign minister. Hawatimah is currently in Moscow. According to Hawatimah, who was quoted 2 days ago on Moscow radio in Arabic, Sheverdnadze rejected the plan outright.

Deputy Minister Reports Contacts With East Bloc

TA020927 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 2 Nov 87 p 2

[Text] Another Eastern Bloc country has begun contacts with Israel on agricultural-economic cooperation along the lines of the Hungarian model which has won renown among East European countries. This was reported by

Deputy Agriculture Minister Knesset Member Avraham Katz-'Oz at a meeting late last week with representatives of the Agricultural Center, Tnuva [cooperative dairy marketing group], and Hamashbir Latzarkhan [cooperative general marketing group], which have developed economic ties with Hungary.

Katz-'Oz noted that following the tightening of relations with Hungary, a suitable climate was created for actual diplomatic relations. Economic deals are being worked out on a significant scale in the field of agriculture and equipment for agricultural production.

The deputy minister also reported that in the wake of his June visit to Hungary with a delegation, an infrastructure had been created for agricultural-economic cooperation and a Hungarian delegation is scheduled to arrive late this week. This delegation will comprise senior representatives of the agricultural cooperative organization, who will stay in Israel for 1 week, and representatives of the cattle-breeding cooperative Taurina [name as published], who will remain in Israel for 5 days.

A third delegation, from the Hungarian hydrological company, is scheduled to arrive in March 1988, and an Israeli delegation will leave on a reciprocal visit after that.

In reply to a question by the ITIM correspondent, Mr Katz-'Oz said that at this stage he has good reasons not to divulge the name of the East European country that has begun contacts with Israel.

Commentary Defends Rabin's Reassessment on Iran
TA021230 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
2 Nov 87 p 9

[Commentary by A. Schweitzer: "Rabin and the Iranian Connection"]

[Text] The latest tempest in a teapot disturbing the calm in Israeli-U.S. relations is connected with Iran, a sore spot for many Americans. Yitzhaq Rabin dared to say in public what many in Israel—and hopefully quite a few in the United States—think deep in their hearts. At a news conference for foreign correspondents last week, Rabin noted two axioms and a hope: that the United States is interpreting its commitment to defend freedom of shipping in the Persian Gulf in a one-sided, pro-Iraqi manner; that the current Iranian hostility toward Israel is a good reason for Israeli attempts to attain a renewed dialogue with Tehran; and that, in time, relations between Israel and Iran may return to what they once were.

If these remarks and some of the defense minister's other asides raised the blood pressure of U.S. State Department officials, this does not speak for their ability to see things as they are, nor for their understanding of the rules of the political game.

As is usual in such cases, there is somebody in Israel who wants to reap some personal benefit from the transatlantic dispute: Dr Yosi Beilin, one of Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres' right-hand men, felt the need to add that it is not Israel's business to establish either a pro-Iranian or a pro-Iraqi party. This beautiful remark by Beilin calls for two comments. The person who said this is one of the most fervent devotees of the anti-Iranian (meaning pro-Iraqi) camp for which he is campaigning within his circles. Furthermore, seeing reality in the right light or assessing the probabilities of changes in the policy of any country (Iran, in this case) are not turning Rabin into a supporter of Iran.

Israel is fully entitled to evaluate its interests differently from the U.S. State Department's views. And this is not all. It is also entitled to translate its evaluation into action. If Israel is not tied by agreements that, for instance, ban it from supplying Iran with U.S.-made weapons, it certainly is entitled to export weapons to that country.

Dr Beilin and his like should understand that Rabin is dealing with facts as opposed to beliefs, such as the belief that Iraq has changed its well-known views on Israel. The facts are his realistic assessment of the danger Israel faces from Khomeyni's envoys in our area (the Hizballah members) and also of the current Iranian Administration's role in keeping Iraqi divisions away from the Israeli border.

Taking into account the risk that Iran will impose Islamic fundamentalism on the surrounding Arabs, Israel must guard itself against Iran becoming too strong. But it is not the only or even the most important supplier of arms to Iran, and its past supplies will not add much to the main element in the strength of the ayatollah's forces: abundant manpower. The actual results prove that this assessment is correct. If Israel alone were carrying the Iranian war effort on its back, it could have demanded a different Iranian attitude toward it. Up to now Israel's moves have been based on economic interests (an acceptable move) and a desire to maintain a link with Iranian elements with the aim of improving the chances of a rapprochement attempt if and when the conditions for this are created.

It does not follow from what was said that we have to agree with everything Rabin claimed at that news conference, or with what commentators may conclude from his remarks. The United States is not a hostage of Iraq. But if we stick to the simile, it is a hostage of its status as a global power with the responsibility for stability in the Persian Gulf area, the main source of oil for its European and Japanese allies against its Soviet rival. It was the Soviet Union that dragged the U.S. and NATO navies into the Gulf when for the first time it proposed reflagging tankers going to Kuwait. The one-sided interpretation the United States gives to freedom of shipping in the

Gulf is a result of its responsibility for balance in that area: it is the way to prevent a crushing Iraqi defeat in the war and keep Iran from becoming the ruler of the Arabian Peninsula.

Nor is there too much importance—and this also conflicts with what Rabin said—in the Soviet activity whose avowed aim is to settle the Iran-Iraq dispute. Even if it is crowned with success, the shocks that will afflict the rival countries at the end of the war will change both of them. Relying on the lessons of history, it is reasonable to assume that commitments accepted during battle will be forgotten when the fighting ends. Countries whose needs will be concentrated on rehabilitation instead of weapons of destruction will reevaluate their priorities, and with them, their relations with foreign countries. This applies even more to Gorbachev's Soviet Union. It will be kept busy dealing with its domestic problems, something that will stop it from taking on the burden of rehabilitating Iran, Iraq, or both.

These, however, are marginal issues from Israel's viewpoint. The main question facing Israel is whether neutrality in the Persian Gulf dispute is the right choice. Alternatively, the choice might be to support, with some degree of involvement, either the Iraqi or Iranian side. On the assumption that what it chooses will be only of limited significance anyway, the above question is replaced by another: Which of the two rivals arouses more hope or is more dangerous for Israel, both during the war and after it?

We can find a hint of the answer in what has been said by those who are warning about the improvement that has taken place in Iraq's military capability as a result of the extended fighting. What emerges is that those who are sounding the warning regard Iraq as a potential partner in an Arab coalition that will go to war against Israel. This conclusion does not depend on an Iraqi victory in its war against Iran, but only on the war being extended. Iran is considered to be a security risk only if it wins and sweeps the Arab world with Islam according to the revolutionary Shi'ite model.

What remains is the more long-term question of which of the two is more dangerous (or, the other side of the same coin, which of them is more promising)? The answer is speculative. In the end we will rely on one of two beliefs: that an enemy's enemy is a friend—that is, Iran is preferable; or that the revolutionary dynamics are more dangerous than the deep-rooted tribal enmity fostered by pan-Arab ideology. If this is so, Iraq is less frightening. It is a difficult choice, but there is nothing in it to disqualify the thinking of those who rely on geopolitics and prefer to think in terms of a strategic partnership with another Iran.

Italian Paper Claims Lavi Being Built in RSA

TA031935 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 3 Nov 87 p 4

[Report from Rome by Yosi Be'er]

[Text] "There seems to be a secret agreement between Israel and South Africa for the production of the Lavi plane." This is the conclusion of the Italian newspaper *Il Giornale*, based on information furnished by the Jewish-Israeli community in South Africa.

The newspaper reports that in spite of the mystery surrounding the affair there are indications that thousands of Israeli technicians previously employed on the Lavi project in Israel will continue their work in South Africa.

Il Giornale quotes Barukh Klein, an Israeli engineer working in South Africa, as saying half-jokingly: "The Jewish community will have to expand the kosher food departments in supermarkets and perhaps even build a new synagogue in Pretoria." The paper wonders why Israeli technicians dismissed from the Lavi project suddenly ceased their protests.

The Italian newspaper claims that the name of the new Lavi will be Simba, Leopard, or some other name resembling the names of aircraft already in use by the South African Air Force.

Il Giornale adds that thousands of foreign technicians are employed by "sensitive" South African industries such as arms, energy, and nuclear research plants.

"It is curious that the United States has not reacted to the reports concerning the production of the Israeli warplane in South Africa," says the newspaper, adding that according to informed sources the U.S. Government would gladly give its blessing to such an agreement between South Africa and Israel.

"It should not be forgotten," the newspaper concludes, "that official policies vary greatly from real politics."

Islamic World League To Aid Jerusalem Fund

TA020913 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 29 Oct 87 pp 1, 11

[Report on an interview with Shaykh S'ad-al-Din al-'Alami, chairman of the Supreme Islamic Board, by unidentified correspondent—date and place not given]

[Excerpt] Jerusalem—Shaykh S'ad-al-Din al-'Alami, chairman of the Supreme Islamic Board, returned to Jerusalem yesterday after attending the Islamic World League conference recently held in Mecca as an invited guest. He will resume his official duties tomorrow morning.

In an interview with the *Al-Nahar* correspondent, Shaykh Al-'Alami said: The conference decided to aid the Jerusalem Fund which it had set up previously to support Palestine and Palestinians. It was decided to extend aid for the construction of mosques and to help the needy. The Islamic World League always endeavors to increase the assistance provided to the city of Jerusalem.

The League also decided to station guards inside the Temple Mount, at its own expense, in addition to the guards assigned by the Waqf.

With regard to the proposal on allowing Muslims inside the Green Line to participate in Islamic world activities, including attending the meetings of the Islamic World League conference, Shaykh Al-'Alami said: The issue of sending an invitation to Muslims within the Green Line was not discussed at this meeting because this does not fall within the business of the League's annual conference, but of the general conference that is held once every 5 years. [passage omitted]

Knesset Defeats 3 No-Confidence Motions 2 Nov
TA031542 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Nov 87 p 3

[Report by 'Amos Ben-Vered]

[Excerpts] With the coalition voting in favor and the opposition voting against, the Knesset yesterday defeated two no-confidence motions submitted in the wake of what was reported about the documents dealing with the Israeli Arabs. The documents are signed by former Minister Moshe Arens and his adviser 'Amos Gilbo'a. The motions were presented by Tawfiq Tubi of HADASH and Muhammad Mi'ari of the Progressive List for Peace. A third no-confidence motion was submitted by Avraham Verdiger of Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el in light of the impending agreement with the Mormons concerning their activities on Mount Scopus, but it was also defeated. Agudat Yisra'el and SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim], which are part of the coalition, joined Po'aley Agudat Yisra'el and the Tehiya in their vote of no confidence. [passage omitted]

No ministers were present in the hall during the first speeches, and only when Verdiger began his address did Agriculture Minister Arye Nehamkin walk in. Roni Milo of Herut, a deputy minister at the Prime Minister's Office, replied to the first two speakers on behalf of the government. Speaking in a moderate and restrained tone, Milo said that no report whatsoever had been submitted to the Cabinet and that no report setting out a policy about the Arab population had been approved by it. According to him, what had been published were mere fragments and drafts. Some parts that review very positive developments within the Arab population have not been given any publicity, he added. There is no intention of confirming some of the parts that were published. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Explains Need for Mutual Recognition
TA031532 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
3 Nov 87 p 1

["Exclusive" report by Sha'ul Tzadqa]

[Text] London—"If Israel recognizes me I will sit with it and give it anything it wants," PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat told a World Council of Churches delegation from the United Kingdom and other European countries in a recent meeting in Cairo.

Paul Oestreicher, the leader of the delegation, told *Ha'aretz* that 'Arafat was asked time and again why he has abstained from explicitly recognizing Israel. In reply, 'Arafat said he could not afford to do so before Israel recognizes the Palestinians for fear that he and his supporters within the PLO would come to harm.

1 SLA Soldier Killed, 7 Wounded by Hizballah
TA040902 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
0830 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] There was a Hizballah attack this morning on a South Lebanese Army [SLA] outpost. A SLA soldier was killed and seven others were wounded in the attack carried out by dozens of terrorists of the Hizballah organization in the central sector of the security zone.

At first, the terrorists opened fire on an SLA outpost near Bint Jubayl. An SLA soldier was killed and four others were wounded. Three additional SLA soldiers were wounded when they stepped on anti-personnel mines dispersed by terrorists around the outpost.

Our correspondent in the north, Menahem Horowitz, reports that large SLA forces arrived at the outpost and managed to repel the terrorists from the security zone. Our correspondent points out that in the battle area there are three scattered UN posts manned by the Irish contingent. The terrorists who attacked the SLA crossed close to these positions unimpeded.

Poll Shows Alignment Support Up, Likud Down
TA301111 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
30 Oct 87 p A1

[Text] If the elections were held today the number of people voting for the Alignment would have gone up by 2.9 percent in comparison to the number voting for it in the 11th Knesset election, reaching 40 percent of the voters. The number of those who would vote Likud, on the other hand, would have gone down by 7.7 percent, to 24.2 percent. These are the results of a PORI Institute public opinion poll conducted for *Ha'aretz* last week.

The number of those who say they would vote for the pro-Alignment small parties reached 9.1 percent. Together with these small parties the Alignment bloc now totals 49.1 percent.

A large number of votes lost by the Likud went to the small parties leaning toward the Likud, mainly the Tehiya party.

Only 15.5 percent of those who voted for the Likud in the 11th Knesset elections declared they would vote for the Likud this time also. Some 19.5 percent of Likud voters in the 11th election said they "do not know" who they would vote for, and 10.1 percent said they would vote Alignment this time.

The poll included a representative sample of 1,200 adult Jewish voters.

Following are the results of the poll (in percentages), as compared to the results of elections for the 11th Knesset:

Party	Oct 87	11th Knesset	Change
Alignment	40.0	37.1	2.9
Pro-Alignment	9.1	5.1	4.0
Likud	24.2	31.9	-7.7
Pro-Likud	9.2	5.2	4.0
Religious	10.0	11.4	-1.4
Others	4.5	6.4	-1.9

Iraq's Ramadan Arrives on 1-Day Visit 3 Nov

Meets With Prime Minister

JN031016 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i received Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's envoy and first deputy prime minister, at his office today. During the meeting, the two sides reviewed current developments in the Arab arena, the issues related to the extraordinary Arab summit, and bilateral relations.

Ramadan arrived in Amman today on a short visit to Jordan during which he will convey a message to His Majesty King Husayn from his brother President Saddam Husayn.

In a statement to journalists, Ramadan said that the message is part of the dialogue and consultations between the two fraternal countries on issues related to the Amman summit.

Holds Talks With King Husayn

JN031245 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1150 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 3 Nov (INA)—Jordan's monarch King Husayn has received a message from President Saddam Husayn. The message deals with relations between the two friendly countries, ways to promote them, the current Arab situation, and preparations for the Amman summit.

Taha Yasin Ramadan, President Saddam Husayn's envoy, RCC member, and first deputy prime minister, delivered the message when the Jordanian monarch received him in Amman today.

An INA correspondent said that during the meeting, King Husayn reiterated Jordan's pan-Arab stand toward Iraq's just defense of its territory and sovereignty and the Arab nation's dignity against the treacherous Iranian aggression.

Attending the meeting on the Jordanian side were Crown Prince Hasan, Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, and several senior Jordanian officials. The meeting was attended on the Iraqi side by Nuri Isma'il al-Wayyis, Foreign Ministry under secretary, and the Iraqi ambassador to Amman.

President Saddam Husayn's envoy, who arrived in Amman earlier today, also met with Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i.

A responsible source in the Iraqi delegation has informed the INA correspondent in Amman that the first deputy prime minister reviewed the latest developments of the Iraq-Iran war with King Husayn. He also reiterated that during the 8th year of the war, Iraq is able to exterminate Iranian aggressions. Ramadan told the king that Iraq's Armed Forces are ready to continue to defend its sovereignty and territory.

The source added that they also touched on the preparations being made for the Amman summit. His Excellency President Saddam Husayn and King Husayn reiterated that the extraordinary Arab summit should restore to the Arab nation its unity, originality, and ability to confront the challenges posed to it by its Khomeyniite and Zionist enemies. The source added that King Husayn asked Ramadan to convey his greetings to his brother, His Excelllency President Saddam Husayn. The king also expressed his satisfaction over the exemplary relations binding the two fraternal states. He asserted that the Iraqi victories are a source of pride to all Arabs since they have single-handedly proved that the Arabs are capable of confronting aggressions.

Further on UK Foreign Secretary's Visit

Meets With Planning Minister

JN021853 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1440 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 2 Nov (PETRA)—Planning Minister Tahir Kan'an and British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe held talks on development in Jordan and the economic situation in the occupied territories. The talks took place at the Planning Ministry today.

Dr Kan'an reviewed the development march in Jordan and the government's economic policies to confront the world's current economic circumstances and developments. He praised the British Government's contribution to Jordan's development plan. He concentrated on the economic, development, and social situation in the occupied territories. He also reviewed Israel's continued attempts to link the West Bank and Gaza economy with Israel's economy in order to turn them into a market for Israeli products. Kan'an added that Israeli exports to the occupied territories represent approximately 10 percent of its total exports. He also said that since the occupation, the Israeli authorities have not created any job opportunities in the occupied territories.

Dr Kan'an explained that as a result of these practices, approximately 4,000 citizens were compelled to emigrate and that approximately 250,000 citizens had emigrated during the occupation. He also explained the sufferings of the citizens in the West Bank and Gaza in general and workers in the agricultural sector in particular. He added that these workers are being prevented from exporting all their agricultural crops and from digging artesian wells. He pointed out that the West Bank and Gaza need approximately $180 million a year to finance development projects.

Sir Howe showed understanding of the conditions of the Arab citizens in the occupied territories. He said that the British Government intends to increase loans to Jordan by 50 percent, adding that loans will amount to 15 million pounds sterling during the years of the plan. The talks were attended by General Dr Ziyad Fariz, Planning Ministry secretary, the British ambassador to Amman, the Jordanian ambassador to London, and a number of department heads at the ministry.

Departs Jordan 3 Nov

JN031631 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Aqaba—British Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and his wife left Aqaba airport this afternoon at the end of a 3-day visit to Jordan. During this visit, Howe met with His Majesty King Husayn, His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, and Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i. He also held talks with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri.

They were seen off by the foreign minister, the British ambassador to Amman, and the Jordanian ambassador to the United Kingdom.

Al-Rifa'i Cables New Syrian Prime Minister

JN021640 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1432 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] Amman, 2 Nov (PETRA)—Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i today sent a cable of congratulations to Mahmud al-Zu'bi for forming a new Syrian cabinet. The prime minister expressed his confidence that the current fraternal relations between the two countries will further develop and grow in all fields in the interest of the two peoples and the Arab nation.

Saudis Contribute to Occupied Arab Territories

JN020825 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 2 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] Amman—It has been learned from reliable sources that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has paid its contribution, amounting to $9.5 million, to the Jordanian-Palestinian Joint Committee for bolstering the kinfolk's steadfastness in the occupied Arab territories.

It has also been learned that the joint committee will meet after the Amman summit to discuss distribution of the said sum to the institutions and sides it decides to assist.

Dudin Comments on Domestic, PLO Affairs

JN012108 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 31 Oct 87 p 21

[Report on an interview with Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, by unidentified correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] Amman—Marwan Dudin, minister of occupied territories affairs, said that Jordan has exerted and continues to exert efforts on all levels to realize the required minimum level of Arab unity, for Jordan strongly believes that what eventually unites the Arabs is greater than what divides them. [passage omitted]

Replying to an *Al-Siyasah* question on the level of Arab agreement on the Middle East question and the proposed international conference, Dudin said that the brother foreign ministers had thought of holding an extraordinary summit and that they chose Amman as its venue. [passage omitted]

Regarding the freezing of Jordan's relations with the PLO and the possible new developments at the summit, the minister of occupied territories affairs said: Relations are not frozen since the PLO is represented in Amman on the highest levels with all our respect and appreciation. There is an Executive Committee office headed by brother Brigadier General 'Abd al-Razzaq al-Yahya and an occupied homeland affairs department headed by Brother Muhammad Hasan Milhim, who is also a member of the Executive Committee. There is also an official PLO representative and a PNC office headed by His Eminence Shaykh 'Abd al-Hamid al-Sa'ih.

He said: We have daily contacts with these bodies, but not on the political level. Dudin added: The freeze declared by his majesty the king and the government was a freeze on political coordination regarding the international conference and negotiations to resolve the problem in accordance with Resolutions 242 and 338 and in a manner we consider just and lasting. [passage omitted]

When asked about the fate of the joint Jordanian-Palestinian committee, which was formed as a result of the Baghdad summit resolutions, particularly the financial ones, and about his assessment of the committee's past work, Dudin replied: The joint committee was formed in accordance with a Baghdad summit resolution. There was agreement that a fund should be established to receive the money granted by states. The fund was supposed to receive 100 million dinars for the Jordanian-Palestinian side and 50 million for the Palestinian side alone to be spent in the Gaza Strip. The West Bank allocations were supposed to go to a joint fund. These amounted to only 420 million dinars in 7 years. This indicates that some states did not pay. Some said they would pay but never did. Some, like Iraq, very willingly paid until they were overburdened by their military expenditures. Thus, it was unacceptable that our Iraqi brothers should continue to pay. This was another exhaustion of the fund's capabilities. [passage omitted]

Dudin categorically denied rumors abroad that the extension of the term of parliament for the East and West Banks was connected to the regional political situation and efforts to hold an international conference on the Palestinian question. He added that the Jordanians—people and leadership—have a strong desire for the people to exercise their right to elect their representatives after an interval of 20 years.

On contacts between the PLO and other Palestinian figures on the one hand, and the Israeli leadership on the other, Minister Dudin said that Palestinians getting in touch with Israelis who may or may not be members of ruling parties is nothing new. However, holding contacts with people who have not come out in support of the Palestinian Arab people's rights to Palestine, their freedom, and self-determination is new. There have been public and possibly other undisclosed meetings with certain personalities who have consistently denied our right to sovereignty over Palestine, and this is unsettling.

He adds: Jordan has always looked with apprehension on unilateral appoaches and solutions. We have always loved Egypt and will continue to do so, but we had hoped that the late President al-Sadat would not act unilaterally. This maverick approach has taken a heavy toll on the cause and on all of us. What party is likely to go it alone now? It is the party most immediately concerned in the dispute that is engaging in such tactics. In other words, after Egypt partly opted out of the battle, the PLO remained the representative of the Palestinian people's rights, and Jordan lost the West Bank in the 1967 war, Egypt partly in the Gaza Strip, and Syria in the Golan Heights. [sentence as published]

I think our adherence to 242 and our resolve to secure PLO acceptance of the resolution demonstrate that we will never act unilaterally and that such an approach can come to no good. I just hope that the contacts raised by your question will not lead to a go-it-alone approach. To my knowledge, part of these contacts were well-intentioned.

I have learned that Sary Nusaybah, writing in the Arabic daily *Al-Quds*, said that he was hasty. His friend Faysal al-Husayni, who was with Nusaybah at the first contact with the Israelis, has been sentenced to 6 months imprisonment and is now in detention. I trust these enlightened young men acted independently, without a mandate from any quarter. If they have come to the conclusion that they are on a dangerously slippery road, we are satisfied. If, on the other hand, such contacts plus the Budapest and Bucharest meetings are part of a scenario meant to send the message that certain people are available for unilateral talks with Israel, then we must say that this is something very serious indeed. Here we are sounding the alarm. [passage omitted]

On the possibility of opening the bridges to car crossings to the West Bank, which is said to be under discussion and to have been accepted by Israel, the minister said that the open-bridges policy is acceptable not only to Jordan but to the West Bank people and PLO as well. We would have liked the situation not to have arisen in the first place. The two bridges are major arteries of communication between us and our kinfolk on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Dudin dismissed all talk about building a third bridge, calling reports to this effect groundless. We are in no position to say that we are in a state of peace, even though we are not in a state of war. Regrettably, we are in a no-war and no-peace situation. We have not arrived at a formula for a solution. Accordingly, we are technically in a state of war. Since we are not in a state of peace, we must look at things within this framework. [passage omitted]

I asked if the refusal by Palestinian figures in the occupied land to see U.S. Secretary of Stage Shultz was the result of prior coordination with the Jordanian Government. Dudin said that there had been no such thing. I personally think the attitude in the occupied territory was narrow-minded. The decision to boycott Shultz was taken in response to a call by certain PLO elements because of the closing of the PLO information office in Washington. Our brothers should have had the guts to confront the foreign secretary of the greatest power on earth and communicate to him the greatest amount of anger and pain. They might have met with him and upset him, and they would have served a better purpose.

Al-Huss Regrets 'Inability' To Attend Summit

NC041223 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Acting Prime Minister Salim al-Huss has apologized for his inability to attend the Arab summit in Amman. In a cable to Jordanian Prime Minister Zayd al-Rifa'i, Al-Huss gave as his reason the very critical and grave circumstances affecting Lebanon and threatening its future.

Al-Jumayyil Receives Message from Iraqi Leader

NC041142 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1045 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has received a message from Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The message, which was conveyed by Sabbar al-Hudaythi, Iraqi charge d'affaires, is believed to be about the Arab summit conference.

Meanwhile, President al-Jumayyil has discussed the question of the Amman summit with [former] President Charles Hilu, who voiced the hope that Al-Jumayyil's consultations at the summit will be in the interests of Lebanon and the Arab countries. Hilu added that he had also reviewed current social conditions with Al-Jumayyil.

Al-Huss Receives Message From Pakistan's Khan

NC031338 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] At his residence today, the acting prime minister received (Ashraf Qadi), Pakistani ambassador to Damascus, as an envoy of Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Khan. During the meeting, the envoy conveyed a message from the Pakistani prime minister on bilateral relations and the Afghan issue.

In a statement after the meeting, the Pakistani envoy said: I have conveyed a message from Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Khan concerning relations between our countries. I have also conveyed the greetings of the Pakistani Government and people to the fraternal Lebanese people and government. He added: Our discussion touched on issues of mutual concern. We wish the Lebanese people success in working out solutions and in riding out the current ordeal.

When asked about the contents of the message, the Pakistani ambassador replied: The message deals with the UN agenda, including the Afghan problem. On this occasion, we would like to express our thanks to the Lebanese Government for its unending support for a just and peaceful solution to the Afghan problem in accordance with UN resolutions.

PSP, Amal Meet To Discuss Memo to Summit

NC030938 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] At his residence yesterday, [former] Minister Marwan Hamadah received acting PSP leader Muhsin Dallul, Amal Movement member Dr Muhammad Baydun, and PSP Political Bureau member Akram Shuhayyib. The conferees discussed the blueprints of a joint memorandum, which will be presented to the Arab summit by Ministers Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt. The PSP and Amal officials assessed the current situation in light of the Trade Union Federation's decision to observe an indefinite strike.

It should be recalled that Minister Birri will make a private visit to Paris, where he will hold talks with ranking French officials. [passage omitted]

Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has met with Minister Walid Junblatt in Algiers. Also present at the meeting were: Muhsin Ibrahim, leader of the Communist Action Organization; Mustafa Sa'd, leader of the Popular Nasirite Organization; and Nadim 'Abd al-Samad, assistant secretary general of the Lebanese Communist Party. The conferees agreed to step up efforts to unify national Lebanese ranks and form a joint front against the Zionist enemy.

PSP Memorandum Detailed

NC031333 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1000 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] During its weekly session this morning, the PSP Political Bureau held an in-depth discussion of various political and economic problems.

In another development, the PSP has addressed a memorandum to the Arab summit conference slated to take place in Amman on 8 November. The memorandum notes that Amin al-Jumayyil does not represent constitutional authority since he came to power in accordance with an Israeli decision. He has brought destruction and calamity to Lebanon. The memorandum adds that Al-Jumayyil unilaterally charted Lebanon's internal and external policies in contravention of the Constitution and political norms.

The memorandum affirms that Al-Jumayyil has compiled a false dossier on the Lebanese crisis in such a way so as to absolve himself and his party from responsibility for the crisis. Al-Jumayyil is the chief culprit in the Lebanese crisis. He has driven the country into a serious deadlock, ruined the state's institutions, destroyed its unity, and used the factional Army against the majority of the Lebanese people. The memorandum notes that the factional Army retreated before Israel and defended the Phalangist gangs after the latter had carried out the

massacres in Sabra and Shatila. Al-Jumayyil spent hundreds of millions of dollars to supply this army with modern weapons and has thus caused the country to sink under the weight of an intolerable economic crisis.

The PSP's memorandum to the Arab summit conference adds that Al-Jumayyil ignored the resolutions adopted in Geneva and Lausanne, as well as those agreed on at the Lebanese-Syrian summits. Al-Jumayyil and his security service assassinated Prime Minister Rashid Karami and have attempted to assassinate Walid Junblatt, Salim al-Huss, Dr Nazih al-Bizri, Najah Wakim, and Dr Hashim al-Husayni. Furthermore, he succeeded in exterminating Shaykh Halim Taqiy al-Din and Major General Nadim al-Hakim.

The memorandum draws attention to the regime's treacherous and terrorist methods of resorting to speculation with the national currency and causing the people's savings to evaporate. This has in fact caused the country to collapse in real catastrophe and starvation. The memorandum affirms that Lebanon could be helped if imperialist and Israeli pressures were resisted and the UN resolutions calling for an unconditional and immediate Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon were implemented. The memorandum notes that help of this kind should begin with the withdrawal of recognition from Al-Jumayyil's Phalangist regime and support for the nationalist struggle to overthrow him.

The memorandum highly praises the conscientious efforts of the Arabs and says that the Syrian role represents a basic guarantee that is indispensable if Israeli aggression and the isolationist factional scheme are to be curbed.

The memorandum concludes by saying that the Lebanese are fighting the battle of the Arabs and Arabism, on the front line against Israel and its agents, and that the battle in Lebanon is an integral part of the one that is going on against the imperialist onslaught directed at Arabs and Muslims in the Gulf and the struggle in Libya to check the French-U.S. attack in Chad.

Lebanese Front Views Labor Strike, Amman Summit

NC041324 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Front after a meeting chaired by Phalangist Party Leader Dr George Sa'adah in Beirut on 4 November]

[Text] The Lebanese Front has discussed the strike called by the General Workers Federation. The front, as part of the nation, concerned for its suffering and aspirations, views the strike as an outcry against the deteriorating conditions in the country and as legitimate industrial action. Therefore, it supports the strike and earnestly calls for it to be carried out in a civilized manner, with full respect for freedoms and private property.

The Lebanese Front also discussed the Arab summit meeting, which is due to be held in Amman. The front decided to prepare a memorandum and to submit it to the meeting in an effort to explain the true situation in Lebanon and prempt any unwarranted maneuvers.

The Lebanese Front confirms that foreign intervention in Lebanon must end if the Lebanese are to be brought together in a climate of freedom in which the country's future can best be decided. The Lebanese Front belongs to you and expresses the free will of the nation.

Syrians in Beirut Arrest 'Terrorist' Network

JN031609 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 1 Nov 87 p 1

[Text] *Al-Ittihad* has learned that during the past few days, the Syrian forces in West Beirut have arrested the members of a terrorist network for which they have been looking for the last 2 weeks. The network is made up of 39 persons, including 3 Lebanese military men. A prominent political source told *Al-Ittihad* that investigations of the members of the network have uncovered a plan to detonate four booby-trapped cars in Al-Hamra and Corniche al-Mazrah Streets and to assassinate some prominent political and military figures 2 days before the convening of the Arab summit conference in Amman. The source added that the Syrian forces seized the four booby-trapped cars and more than 650 weapons, including missile launching pads and anti-armor mines.

Communist Party Reportedly Split Into Two Wings

NC032045 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] According to a local news agency, a dispute has arisen among the leaders of the Lebanese Communist Party. The leaders have split into two groups. The first supports George Hawi, the curent secretary general of the party, and the second supports the wing of Batal [George, Central Committee member] and Muruwwah [Karim, deputy secretary general]. These two are closesr to Syria than Hawi.

It has been learned that a stormy meeting was held at the central Communist Party Headquarters last week. The meeting was called after accusations were made against Hawi, stating that he had received $3 million of which nothing reached the party's leadership. The Soviet ambassador intervened, however, which persuaded both sides not to trade accusations in public.

Sha'ban on Reported Presidential Candidacy

NC031759 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has responded to a question on his rumored candidacy for the presidential elections by

saying: I do not believe that any Muslim should run as a candidate for the post of the head of the Lebanese Republic until the [present] Lebanese regime has been toppled.

Press Strike Declared; No Papers Issued 5 Nov

NC031815 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Following consultations with the members of the Press Syndicate Council and the Editors Syndicate, press doyen Muhammad B'albaki declared that work will stop at all press establishments tomorrow, Wednesday. He said that as a result papers will not be published on Thursday. He added that the papers will be published on Friday.

Strike To Continue 2 Days

NC041208 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] In order to clear up a misunderstanding over the Lebanese press strike, press doyen Muhammad B'albaki has said that the Press Syndicate is one of the institutions that took part in the General National Labor Unions conference. The conference agreed to stage a general strike, B'albaki added, and the Press Syndicate arranged with General Workers Federation leader Antoine Bisharah to limit newspaper participation in the strike to 1 day. However, during a meeting last night, Tuesday, between the Press Syndicate and other parties concerned, it was decided that the press will go on strike for 2 days rather than 1. This is why I had to make this clarification, B'albaki concluded.

Teachers Suspend Strike; North Still Out

NC021832 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Text] After a 12-day stoppage, classes were resumed today and schools reopened in various Lebanese areas. Teachers were responding to the Teachers Bureau recommendation to suspend the strike until 12 January.

In the meantime, the council of the delegations of public secondary education teachers in the north has decided that achievements to date do not justify suspending the strike, because they are trivial accomplishments which do not constitute a real response to teachers' sufferings. They have decided, therefore, to continue their open strike pending a unanimous decision by the council for coordinating educational sectors in the north in accordance with recommendations from the general assemblies of educational organizations.

New Cabinet Sworn In; Al-Asad Chairs Session

JN021917 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Excerpts] With His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad in attendance, the ministers of the new cabinet led by Mahmud al-Zu'bi were sworn in today. [passage omitted]

After the swearing-in ceremonies, his excellency the president chaired the first cabinet meeting and gave his instructions. The president discussed the tasks awaiting the new cabinet and urged that they be tackled to ensure that the country's steadfastness will be strengthened in the face of Zionism and imperialism, general living conditions will be improved, and production and development will grow. [passage omitted]

Economic Policy Discussed

JN031543 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has stressed that the people's basic needs must be met, and the requirements for developing, raising, and improving the quality of production must be fulfilled. The president also highlighted the virtues of self-reliance and national initiative.

Chairing the first meeting of the new cabinet yesterday, President al-Asad said the tasks ahead must be tackled so as to promote our steadfastness in the face of Zionism and imperialism. His excellency called the cabinet's attention to the domestic, Arab, and foreign policy goals set by the resolutions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party congresses. He emphasized that all available energies and resources must be used to attain these objectives. His excellency declared: Our economic policy is known and our principles are constant. However, it is important for us to develop our methods of work, which will bring greater efficiency and speed in the interest of the goals we have set.

The president discussed the three components of the economy: the public sector, the private sector, and the mixed sector. The president explained that the three sectors must be encouraged to boost production and quicken the pace of economic growth, so as to successfully implement our economic strategy. He added: We have substantial resources, but we must work. When we do, we see and reap the fruits of our labor. If we work harder, we will achieve a correspondingly higher level of production and lead better lives.

The president called for an end to red tape, and for enforcement of the law with justice and fairness for all. He described violations of the law as acts of aggression against the people as a whole.

The president wished their excellencies the ministers success in the conduct of their business.

Reshuffle Linked to 'Tension'

NC031842 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Excerpts] The recent cabinet reshuffle in Syria was hardly routine. Rather, it reflects an aggravated deterioration of the economy and rising political tension among rival factions. [passage omitted]

Observers note that the government crisis in Syria is not only a result of the economic situation, but is also a product of a major power struggle. They base their conclusion on the following facts:

1. Muhammad al-Khuli, director of Air Force intelligence, has been placed under President Hafiz al-Asad's supervision and stripped of all powers.

2. 'Adnan 'Abd al-Hasan, director of the Political Security Department and brother of one of the closest aides of 'Ali Duba, director of the Military Security Department, has been arrested.

3. There are rumors within the ruling circle that Ghazi Kan'an [commander of Syrian military intelligence in Lebanon] will replace 'Ali Duba at the Military Security Department.

In addition, Al-Asad is making serious attempts to force members of his clan on every Syrian institution, especially the presidency, in a bid to secure power for his son, Basil, at the expense of all other Syrian factions. This (?has angered) the Sunnite sect above all, for its members, as the French paper *Le Quotidien* said, are waiting for their turn in the political game.

AL-BA'TH Cited on 'Focus' of Amman Summit

JN030758 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Amman Summit and Pan-Arab Responsibilities," *Al-Ba'th* writes: The extraordinary summit in Amman is approaching. This meeting has been the focus of attention, as it is a new opportunity for the Arabs to find a way out of their whirlpool of differences. It is also a chance for them to overcome their fragmentation and absence of clear vision as to the nature of the regional conflict, in which U.S. political and military activities have reached their peak, creating a destructive situation for the Arabs. Some Arabs have exchanged their true friends for their true enemies, and worked in a direction opposite the proper one. The Amman summit cannot be extraordinary unless it is devoted to finding a way out of this situation and achieving Arab solidarity on a clear foundation. The most important point here is an agreement that Palestine is the Arabs' central cause, that the Zionist enemy is the Arabs' main enemy, and that the side battles created here and there on various pretexts must

not be given priority over pan-Arab battles, the dangers of which threaten all Arabs, as well as their lives, future, and history. Only on this basis did Syria give its enthusiastic agreement to attend the summit. After all, with its pioneering role in the Arab world, Syria is concerned with the Arab-Israeli conflict and its possible developments far more than anyone else.

If anyone tries to turn the Amman summit into one that would cancel the pan-Arab fight and the conflict with the Zionist enemy, and provide pan-Arab recognition to a fabricated battle and a new enemy on the Arab nation's eastern border in accordance with a Zionist-U.S. plan, Syria is capable, under any circumstances, of exposing the objectives behind these efforts. It can also frustrate any attempt, regardless of source, to tamper with our nation's pan-Arab goals. Moreover, Syria can put things on the right track, in the appropriate place, and at the appropriate time.

The principles to which the Arabs agreed at the Baghdad and Fes summits still govern the march of collective Arab action. This is true if there is still anyone seeking to make collective Arab action serious and effective, and if there is someone working for true Arab solidarity, full of hope that the Amman summit will have results to match the serious circumstances facing the Arabs. Any deviation from these principles will eventually be a deviation from the entire pan-Arab cause and the will of the Arab masses as a whole. This is something Syria will fight and foil.

Radio Analyzes Solutions to Lebanese 'Crisis'

JN021607 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Station commentary]

[Text] With the approach of the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman, people have begun to talk a great deal about the Lebanese crisis. Lebanese officials and politicians have also begun to give their different ideas, plans, and proposals to settle the Lebanese crisis, remedy inter-Lebanese relations, and repair the ties between Lebanese officials and Lebanese and Arab parties. Lebanese officials and politicians have the right to present their ideas, plans, and proposals at any time and in any way they wish. They also have the right to be concerned about their country's future. The Arab summit may be a good opportunity for them to explain their ideas to the public and to Arab leaders.

It is natural for Lebanese officials and politicians to air their views about their country's crisis, inter-Lebanese relations, and the ties between various Lebanese parties on one hand, and Arab and foreign forces on the other. They, or at least some of them, have taken advantage of various domestic, Arab, regional, and international occasions to explain these ideas. Any objective and realistic observer can see that, along with the desire for a solution, these are many differences between these positions and proposals. None of the publicized proposals, activities, and visits have ended these differences. On the contrary, they may have grown and increased. Those Lebanese politicians who say silence is better and more useful than escalating differences, increasing disputes, and widening the gap between rival factions through unilateral and provocative proposals may be right.

Anyone who loves Lebanon and is concerned about its national interests will welcome any effort by those who can settle the domestic crisis there. The question, then, is this: Who can settle Lebanon's internal crisis, and where are they? We must make it clear that the resolution of Lebanon's crisis is something for the Lebanese. The Lebanese themselves are capable of surmounting the differences that have overtaken them since 1976. Consequently, no settlement imposed by foreign or domestic forces can replace national accord among the Lebanese. In addition, no Lebanese can claim that he alone represents all the people of his country under the current circumstances in Lebanon and the events that have taken place since the start of its internal conflict. A national charter can restore health and vitality to Lebanon and efficacy and authority to its institutions. Therefore, the best way to settle the Lebanese crisis and its related problems is through a national accord among the Lebanese. The Lebanese themselves should agree on the required reforms and bases of the accord, foremost of which are unity of land and people in Lebanon, Lebanon's Arab identity and Arab and international role, its Arab relations, and equality and justice among Lebanese.

Lebanon's domestic crisis began with the U.S.-Israeli onslaught on the region through the second Sinai agreement and the start of the Camp David process. The desperate attempts by the Camp David parties to distract the Arabs' attention from their true battle against Israel, U.S. imperialism, and Camp David have heightened the crisis. The Camp David parties and capitals will not settle the crisis. Those who created the Lebanese crisis have no interest in ending it.

Shultz Tour Designed To 'Thwart' Mideast Talks

PM031259 Damascus AL-BA'TH in Arabic 20 Oct 87 p 2

[Article by 'Abd al-Karim 'Abd al-Rahim: "Why Did Shultz Feign Disappointment?"]

[Text] U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz has ended his visit to the region, and the media have focused on the fact that he returned from the Middle East disappointed.

The question that arises amid all the intended publicity is this: Does anyone really think that Shultz came to the region to advance the peace process? If that were the case, he could have done it from Washington, without taking the trouble to travel to the region, which his forces are trying to set alight.

Washington has yet to agree to an international peace conference and continues to back Shamir's position, which advocates separate settlements according to Zionist preconditions. With the increase in Arab and international support for this conference, the theorist in the U.S. State Department could promote the peace process by following the path of justice and comprehensive peace, which are required for regional security and stability.

While we have no desire to dwell on the details of his Middle East trip, we must, nevertheless, pause for a moment to consider the American mentality that guided his steps to and in the region. We recall that during his tour of the region in 1982 after the Zionist invasion of Lebanon, Shultz did not return to Washington disappointed when his famous 17 May agreement—no longer a contract of submission to the arrogant Zionist power—was announced.

However, Shultz was taken by surprise—his accord proved to be merely ink on paper. Arab nationalist forces showed their ability to want what Washington does not when they tore up that document and emphasized that Arab Lebanon would not be the protectorate of any colonialist power, no matter how many weapons of death and destruction it has.

There is no difference between what Shultz wants today and what he wanted then. He has reviewed his calculations with the Zionists in occupied Palestine, as he did in Cairo with the Camp David regime. He may have found that the time is not right for another Camp David, or a new 17 May, so he decided to make his trip a failure. After all, his real goal is to thwart the holding of an international conference by promoting a separate deal amid the dangerous events in the region.

What is striking is that Shultz' last days in the area were accompanied by a dangerous escalation of his country's position in the Gulf. The process began with Reagan's threat of revenge against Iran, followed by an American bombardment of an Iranian position. This has prompted us to take another look at the aims of Shultz' tour of the region, as well as the substance of his talks with the Egyptian regime and the Zionists. They confirm our doubts regarding Shultz' determination to leave our region wearing a mask of disappointment!

Could our questioning point to the more important role that the Arab liberation movement plays in confronting the Zionist entity and the capitulationist deals, when Washington is trying to mislead us into believing that the fire started in the Gulf!?

Afghanistan

Leaders Sends Greetings to Poland's Jaruzelski

LD040646 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0420 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Kabul, November 3, *Bakhtar*—A message of felicitation was sent by Dr Najibullah, general secretary of the PDPA CC and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and chairman of Council of Ministers, to Wojciech Jaruzelski, first secretary of the Polish United Workers Party (PUWP), chairman of State Council and chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Polish People's Republic, on the 60th anniversary of the signing of friendship treaty and the establishment of diplomatic relations between Afghanistan and Poland.

The relations between the two countries have been described [as] dynamic which have been consolidated and expand [words indistinct] after the victory of April Revolution of 1978.

Confidence has been expressed that these ties will further consolidate in the interest of the (?peoples) of the two countries [words indistinct].

Similar message has also been addressed by 'Abdul Wakil, Politburo member of the PDPA CC and minister of foreign affairs of the DRA, on the same occasion to that country.

Mujahidin Commander Interviewed on Resistance

JN012016 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD AL-USBU'I in Arabic 29 Oct 87 p 17

[Interview with Jalalludin Haqqani, commander in chief of the Hezb-e Eslami, by Isma'il al-Fakhrani; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Fakhrani] After 10 years of fighting against the Afghan regime and the Soviet forces, what are the assets of the Afghan mujahidin and how do you assess the situation?

[Haqqani] [Passage omitted] This long period has provided the mujahidin with the required experience in fighting, God be praised. With God's help, they have become more experienced in war than the military experts themselves, who have received theoretical experience. Practical experience has taught them a great deal. [passage omitted]

We also have weapons. With God's help, we can purchase weapons from any place of our choice in addition to our war spoils. We also use weapons excellently. We knew nothing in the past about using arms. We also have communications equipment, God be praised, as well as transportation means. Instead of using donkeys and mules, we are now using vehicles, God be praised. The health conditions of the mujahidin have improved 50 percent if not 100 percent. These conditions are better than they were at the beginning of the battle. We hope that this percentage will also increase. Our Muslim brothers everywhere are providing us with the required health service and doctors. We have achieved victory in the field of information. Our news is spreading throughout the world and in our newspapers. We have five radio stations in Afghanistan to broadcast our news. [passage omitted]

[Al-Fakhrani] Undoubtedly the mujahidin have made many sacrifices during this period. What are the losses of the mujahidin?

[Haqqani] The mujahidin lost 1.3 million martyrs, half of their houses were destroyed, 80 percent of their orchards and crops were destroyed, 5 million elderly people, women, and children left their homes and went to the Pakistani and Iranian borders, and 2 million people left their areas inside Afghanistan. Other people in Afghanistan live in continuous fear. They live under shelling by enemy planes and artillery day and night. Every minute an Afghan Muslim is martyred.

[Al-Fakhrani] Does this have any effect on the mujahidin's morale?

[Haqqani] No, this has not weakened their determination. On the contrary, it has further assured them of their enemy's tyranny. Therefore, they have become more determined to continue the struggle until victory, although the enemy is trying to cheat us. Sometimes it calls for a cease-fire and a political settlement or hints that it may withdraw. Despite their difficult circumstances, as described before, the mujahidin pay no attention to such proposals. We are aware, God be praised, of the communists' treachery. The communists do not keep their promises. We will continue our battle until we establish an Islamic government in Afghanistan; then we will expel from Afghanistan every communist and all who do not believe in God. [passage omitted]

[Al-Fakhrani] How do the Soviets plan to confront this embarrassment?

[Haqqani] First, they do not publish any of their losses in life and weapons. They deceive soldiers inside the Soviet Union. They tell them they will not fight in Afghanistan but will protect the Soviet border from the United States. These soldiers then find themselves fighting in Afghanistan. The Soviet leadership's lies are exposed even before the Soviet soldiers ask where the Americans are. This is why they have lost confidence in their leadership.

All people, including the Soviets, know that the fighting is only between the Soviets and the Afghan people. It is better for the Soviets to withdraw their forces. Otherwise, the mujahidin will continue to fight and they will achieve victory after victory. The mujahdin shoot down approximately 60 planes a month; that is, 2 planes a day. The planes costs $20 million. The pilots cost much more

than that. Some pilots refuse to fly and to bomb the mujahidin. Those who are obliged to fly drop their bombs from high altitudes to hit Soviet soldiers or Soviet and Afghan soldiers. They fear our missiles, so they miss their taregts. They are in constant fear, God be praised. Their continuous defeat does not enable them to say that they dominate even 1 of the 28 provinces. Even those near the Soviet border are not dominated by them. [passage omitted]

Islamabad Reports Recent Mujahidin Successes

BK031548 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that Soviet-Kabul forces were recently forced to retreat following stiff resistance by the mujahidin. The mujahidin are defending their center near Sheberghan, the capital of Jowzjan Province. A total of 70 soldiers were either killed or wounded in the clashes. According to reports, the mujahidin have also shot down a military aircraft in the (Malaghat) region near Qandahar. According to another report, the mujahidin killed 12 soldiers of the Soviet-Kabul army in an attack on a military post at (Kashrad) town in Nimruz Province. The post was damaged and one tank was destroyed.

Bangladesh

Opposition Claims Over 5,000 Arrested

BK031138 Hong Kong AFP in English 1124 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Dhaka, Nov 3 (AFP)—Bangladesh's opposition groups said Tuesday that police had detained up to 5,000 of their leaders and activists in a nationwide swoop over the past week so as to prevent next week's planned anti-government protests.

They said the government had resorted to "large-scale arrests and intimidation" to stifle the opposition ahead of the much-publicised "siege" of Dhaka on November 10 aimed at forcing the ouster of President Hussain Mohammad Ershad.

The opposition claims that Gen. Ershad, who came to power in a coup in 1982, has no popular support and that he rigged last year's elections to cling to power. Gen. Ershad has denied the charges.

Last week, Home Ministry sources said there had been some 520 arrests.

Police and officials have confirmed rounding up political activists in several areas since last week. Those arrested included five opposition MP's, two former ministers and local leaders and supporters of major anti-government parties and groups.

But the two main opposition leaders—Sheikh Hasina Wajed whose Awami League heads an eight-party alliance and Begum Khaleda Zia whose Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leads a seven-party combine—were still free and drumming up support for next Tuesday's protest.

Shiekh Hasina, daughter of Bangladesh's founding president Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, told AFP Tuesday that despite the government action, the planned "siege programme would go ahead as scheduled."

"We are determined to make it (a) success" and strike the illegal government a "crushing blow," she said. She gave no precise details of what was planned for the demonstrations, saying: "Wait and see."

Begum Khaleda Zia, widow of the country's second assassinated president Ziaur Rahman, is currently on a tour of western Bangladesh to muster support for the siege which opposition sources said will paralyse the government. She was not available for comment.

The two major opposition groups, backed by a five-party leftist alliance and the rightist Jamaat-i Islami Party, have set November 9 as the "deadline" for Gen. Ershad and his government to resign.

"We want Ershad to step down quietly before the deadline to ensure peace in the country," Sheikh Hasina said, indicating that the capital would be swamped by hundreds of thousands of opposition supporters and that the protest might continue beyond November 10 until the government stepped down.

Gen. Ershad, who has survived previous opposition campaigns against him, has ridiculed the opposition leaders as "paper tigers" with no popular support.

On Saturday, he renewed his call for a national consensus on major political and economic problems and said "We must shun the path of indiscipline and chaos to establish Bangladesh (in) a prestigious position."

November 10 coincides with the first anniversary of Gen. Ershad's lifting of five years of martial law.

Opposition Leaders Meet

BK031556 Dhaka SANGBAD in Bengali 29 Oct 87 pp 1, 8

[Excerpt] The expected meeting between Sheikh Hasina [chairperson of the Awami League and leader of an eight-party alliance] and Mrs Khaleda Zia [chairperson of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party and leader of a seven-party alliance] was finally held yesterday. A joint statement issued at the end of the meeting expressed confidence that they will unite in order to implement all the programs planned for 1 and 10 November. The first meeting was held at the guest house of the Atomic

Energy Commission at Mahakhali. A closed door session between the two leaders was later held at the nearby residence of Dr Wazed Mian from 2144 to 2235 [1544-1635 GMT].

At the end of the meeting, a statement from the two leaders was read to journalists. It said: "We will unite in order to implement successfully all the programs planned for 1 and 10 November aimed at overthrowing the autocratic Ershad government. Our objective is to reestablish the spirit of the war of liberation by ensuring the democratic process in the country. We call upon all democratic and progressive forces, irrespective of party affiliation, to unite and carry forward the movement demanding the resignation of Ershad government." [passage omitted]

India

Andhra Cyclone Destroys 10,00 Houses, Kills 4

BK031728 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] At least 4 persons were killed and about 10,000 houses destroyed as the severe cyclonic storm battered the south Andhra coast near Nellore early today. The Prakasam District has been badly hit. A spokesman of the state government told our Hyderabad correspondent that rescue and relief operations are being carried out in the affected areas. About 20,000 people were evacuated from low-lying areas of the district. Twelve villages in the district are under 10 feet of water. In Nellore District, at least 20 villages are surrounded by water. Nellore town, which has received a record rainfall of 53 centimeters during the last 24 hours, has experienced unprecedented damage. Power supply and telecommunications were completely cut off due to uprooting of poles.

The railways divisional manager, Vijaywada, told our correspondent that the damaged track between Nellore and Padugupadu stations has been repaired and all the trains are running, although behind schedule. Vehicular traffic on the national highway near (Tambu Turu) in Prakasam District has been disrupted as uprooted trees blocked the road.

In Orissa, the coastal districts of Ganjam, Puri, Cuttack, and Balasore are experiencing heavy to very heavy rain since yesterday afternoon. AIR Bhubaneswar correspondent reports that this has affected life in the state capital and some other places.

Prime Minister Returns From SAARC Summit

BK040952 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] The Prime Minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has returned to the capital after attending the SAARC summit at Kathmandu a short while ago.

8 Terrorists Killed in Punjab; Arms Recovered

BK031644 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] In Punjab, six terrorists were killed and a big cache of arms and ammunition unearthed by the police since last night. According to the director general of state police, Mr J.S. Ribeiro, they include four members of the gang who gunned down eight persons in Bahariakala in Hoshiarpur District on Sunday night. He said while two of them were killed in an encounter with the police last night, the other two were killed this afternoon in Mahilpur area of the district. Mr Ribeiro said that the killed include the gang leader, Paramjit Singh Pamma, who was involved in a number of terrorist crimes and carried a reward of 30,000 rupees on his head.

In Jullundur District, two motorcycle-borne terrorists who fired at a police party near Dehra Baba Chapala were killed when the police returned the fire. A large quantity of ammunition was recovered from them.

Iran

Reportage on Events Marking 4 Nov Anniversary

Montazeri on Celebrations

LD031417 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, this morning after his lesson on jurisprudence, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri commented on the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage, the banishment of the imam of the ummah, and Students Day. He said: Tomorrow is the anniversary of the day when the U.S. den of espionage was occupied, the day when his holiness the imam—may his shadow lengthen—was banished, and Students Day. A march has been announced by honorable officials. Therefore, it is seemly for all groups and strata, especially the seminarians and the scholars, to take part in those glorious celebrations. Moreover, they should announce their hatred and revulsion toward the tyrannical U.S. Government which today has become the symbol of tyranny and blasphemy in the world.

He emphasized: With the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage, the wings of the tyrannical U.S. Government were clipped and the mythical power and prestige propagated by the United States among the oppressed nations of the world were smashed. As a result, during the 444 days when U.S. spies were held captive by our nation, the U.S. Government devoted all its efforts and thoughts toward their freedom and release, yet was still unable to do anything.

Today, the U.S. Government, which is in fact under the domination and influence of the Zionists, dispatched its forces to the Persian Gulf—thus violating our house—using the issue of Persian Gulf security as an excuse. Everyone knows that it was Saddam who disrupted

security in the Persian Gulf by attacking our ships. The U.S. Government thinks that people will be intimidated by its clamor, threats, and the arrival of its forces. The day when nations could be intimidated by threats and bullying is long past. Today the nations have grown up and have arisen. As the result of its awakening and awareness, the Muslim Iranian nation has arisen with empty hands against the interference in our country by the U.S. Government and threw the United States out of Iran.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri stressed: It is a source of great regret that the leaders of Arab countries of the Persian Gulf have submitted to degradation by placing all their resources and interests at the disposal of the United States and the West. They have also sold off their honor and independence to the United States and other enemies of Islam. Instead of siding with Islam and with the Islamic Republic, they have sided with the enemies of Islam and of the Koran.

The deputy leader emphasized: The enemies of Islam should know that the Islamic Revolution has been and will continue to be exported. What we mean by exporting the revolution is that when other oppressed and deprived nations saw that the Muslim Iranian nation, despite all the hardships, difficulties, and shortages, stood up to the United States, oppression, blasphemy, and Zionism and continued its struggle, they will also follow the same path.

Of course, one should differentiate between the American nation and people and the U.S. Government. Most American people are also oppressed and are crushed under the tyranny of their oppressive government.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri emphasized: If there were wise individuals within the U.S. Government they would have realized that they should leave the Persian Gulf before the United States is further disgraced and before scenes such as those in Vietnam and Lebanon are repeated there. They should end their evil domination of the Persian Gulf countries.

In conclusion, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri prayed for the victory of the fighters of Islam and the greater success of those who are serving Islam and the revolution and for the health and longevity of his holiness the imam, may his shadow lengthen.

'Millions' Take Part in Marches

LD040604 Tehran IRNA in English 0559 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—In a message to the nation Tuesday Prime Minister Musavi said that the November 4th ceremonies this year will mark a symbolic 'trampling of the Great Satan' under the feet of the Iranians. He said Wednesday November 4 will witness a demonstration of the people's steadfastness in safeguarding the values of the Islamic revolution.

Musavi expressed hope that the Wednesday rallies would be grand enough to panic the Americans and shatter their morale.

November 4th marks the anniversary of Imam Khomeyni's exile to Istanbul, Turkey by the shah (1964), a massive student uprising against the shah's rule throughout the nation in 1978, and seizure of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran (1980) by a group of students later identifying themselves as 'Muslim students following the Imam's line.'

In demonstrations which started throughout Iran at 0830 hours local time (05.00 hours GMT) millions of Iranians are voicing support for the Islamic revolution and the Islamic government and its anti-American policies as well as the war effort. Demonstrators are also shouting slogans in condemnation of the U.S. and its allies for their intervention in the Persian Gulf.

Demonstrators in Tehran are heading towards the city's Azadi Square at the western turnpike of the city. Hundreds of thousands of IRGC soldiers and other irregulars and paramilitary troops, and rank and file members of the armed forces among them military commanders and sub-commanders and government officials are taking part in the demonstrations.

Prime Minister Musavi said in his message to the nation Tuesday that 'the servants of the masses' (government officials) would take part in the November 4th rallies as an inseparable part of the nation.

Foreign Ministry Statement

NC041029 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Iran has issued a statement in which it describes 4 November, the day on which the revolutionary movement of the Muslim students following the imam's line cast off the mask from the face of the aggressive and hegemonistic United States, as the day of America's political death.

The statement adds: This year 4 November will manifest the extent of the Iranian nation's rage and hatred toward the aggressive presence of the United States in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, it will be an expression of the Islamic Republic's firm decision to cut off the hands of the United States and of all those who want to obstruct the independent and free life of the Iranian and other regional nations.

Majlis Speaker Addresses Rally

LD041110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0745 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Speech by Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani at mass rally in Tehran marking the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. Embassy—live]

[Text] God's peace and mercy be upon you all. [chants] Thank you very much for your sentiments, but we are a bit late now, so please let me get on with the speech

because our brothers and sisters are tired. Some of them have come a long way and have the same long journey ahead of them.

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Thanks be to God, the Lord of the Two Worlds. May God's peace and salutations and benedictions be upon the prophet and saints. We trust God, our best Lord and Master.

Last year, on 4 November, in front of the Islamic Majlis, amidst the marchers and their demonstrations, I discussed the desperate situation facing the United States and cited some examples of how U.S. policies had reached an impasse in Iran and the region. A year has passed and today we are witnessing some clear and more eloquent examples of U.S. desperation in connection with the Islamic Revolution and our Muslim nation and fighters.

The problem facing the United States is that it cannot adjust to the realities of the world of Islam; nor can it give up its age-old objectives and ill intentions of maintaining hegemony over this land and realm. Today, I am expected to devote all my remarks to the United States and I shall respond to this conscientious cry of our dear nation, whose million-strong masses are marching and creating this glorious gathering.

Since the Islamic revolution and victory of our nation, the United States, with the defeat of its base in Iran, has become entangled in instant policy-making. It seems that it has totally lost the initiative and is not following a well-planned and organized policy. It lives from day to day and adopts certain policies spontaneously and in response to daily events. This is a disgraceful defeat for a superpower who considers itself the symbol of the free world. During the past 2 or 3 years, we have witnessed its lack of proper policy planning and decision-making, so much so that it is appropriate to call their policy an uncalculated policy, without principles, a confused, ambiguous policy.

Following the unexpected victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Americans intended to follow the policy of going out through the door to return through the window. This is the desired policy of arrogance, but it was defeated. The coups and conspiracies were defeated and the Americans received the first effective blow at the hands of the Muslim students following the imam's line through their capture of the den of espionage. After that, the United States never managed to regain its balance to follow up with a well-planned policy toward Iran. This is quite clear to informed observers of international events.

In the United States itself, during the U.S. election the policy was to react to events. That is, the people, influenced by their humiliation and the defeat of the Democrats by Iran and by the blow inflicted on their morale by the occupation of the U.S. den of espionage in Tehran, voted for the war-mongering and aggressive policies of the Republican Party. The outcome of such a policy improved the chances of a person like Mr Reagan, who had an aggressive tone in his speeches.

Carter and the Democratic Party were defeated, and the Republicans, who by nature favor war and harsh policies, won the election. Moreover, a person such as Mr Reagan became well known to the American people when, several years earlier, he made a speech in support of Goldwater—the warmongering U.S. presidential candidate who in his election campaign speeches threatened to wage war. The current U.S. President, thanks to his speech in support of Goldwater, became known as a symbol of toughness, inflexibility, and aggression. The people were drawn toward such an element to make up for the defeated policy of Carter and the Democratic Party. They saw Iran as an example of their defeat. In response, in order to make up for their humiliation, the American people voted for Reagan. Since moving to the White House, Mr Reagan has been unable to adopt an acceptable foreign policy toward the Islamic world, Iran's Islamic revolution, or the sensitive region of the Middle East. He has shown his policy by following a continuous course of zigzag actions, moving from left to right and back again. Informed observers believe that Mr Reagan has no clear view of himself, as his strength comes more from movies than his status as a political figure. He was a successful actor in his own field; that is, in the circus. He is one of the best known faces in U.S. cinema. However, he is in trouble in the political world. Several factions work in conjunction with Mr Reagan. U.S. policy changes according to the predominance of a given faction.

If such individuals as Mr Bush, McFarlane, and others gain the upper hand in the White House, their policy moves toward moderation and, as the critics say, it becomes (?wise). But if individuals like Weinberger and Shultz gain the upper hand, American policy tilts toward harshness, aggression, extremism, and violence. We can see this clearly in the case of Iran. It is quite plain to us that those ruling in the White House have no elaborate policy. In practice, the same is true of the U.S. Congress.

The biggest defeat that the Islamic revolution has inflicted on the United States is the fact that the Americans have been forced to adopt instant policies around the world. Let me explain this to you: Informed observers feel that its own claims notwithstanding, the White House is no longer capable of running the world. Its supporters in our region, in Europe, Asia, and elsewhere, are confused and quite upset with American policy, which is opportunistic and made on the spur of the moment.

I would like to quote some remarks by a U.S. political expert on this sensitive day. I tell you this to make you see what the situation is. Mr Tip O'Neill, speaker of the House of Representatives and a well-known face on the U.S. political scene for the last 2 decades, wrote a book recently on his career as speaker. A summary of the book

was published by *The Washington Post* 6 weeks ago. These memoirs on White House policy and on Mr Reagan and his advisers contain some very interesting things, which can explain the reasons behind the events in our region. If we study them carefully we can understand why the United States is following such a foolish policy in the Persian Gulf today. Mr O'Neill claims that his revelations are not politically motivated. He adds: Mr Reagan will not be a presidential candidate again, and I am not thinking of running for election, either. Therefore, the purpose of my comments is to alert the U.S. nation and to teach my fellow countrymen something. That is, he has adopted the role of an adviser or preacher. He writes: Once in the White House, Mr Reagan basically lacked any talent for absorbing international and political issues. Whenever we discussed pressing political matters at our private sessions, he would not take part in the conversation; he would (?daydream) instead. However, whenever he raised questions of art or discussed circus and theatrical matters, he would sparkle with joy and join our conversation.

He gives some other examples of this. Continuing his interpretation of American politics, Mr O'Neill notes: I have known every president since Truman, and in my opinion, Mr Reagan is the worst yet. This is an authoritative statement, coming as it does from someone like the House speaker. Generally, a person like that cannot make careless remarks to the American people and a paper like *The Washington Post* would not publish them.

He adds: When Mr Reagan announces a decision, that decision is made by either the hawks or doves in the White House. He only reads the decision. This is a very important remark against an incumbent President. As another example, he says: Mr Reagan was supposed to visit Japan. Before he left, he met with representatives of three large U.S. companies so he could convey their demands to the Japanese. Some papers had been prepared for him to read from while making speeches to these three groups. But he chose the wrong papers and delivered the wrong speech to the wrong group. For instance, when he was supposed to talk to machine manufacturers, he used the paper prepared for beverage producers and made a speech accordingly. Or he spoke to oil company representatives about the computer industry. The President is known to his own nation and to ruling circles in the United States as that sort of person. According to Mr O'Neill, the representatives of those groups wondered if, by talking about the wrong issues, their President was sick. Mr O'Neill makes a judgment for himself by saying: I believe it was a fatal error to elect Mr Reagan as president. He altered America's systematic foreign policy and transformed it into one of response and opportunity. He raises the question of Grenada, noting: Do you know why Mr Reagan decided to occupy Grenada? Because he was defeated in Lebanon. We were defeated and humiliated in Lebanon. We occupied the helpless island of Grenada with our military forces to make ourselves appear victorious before the public. He adds: Every day I live in fear that Mr Reagan might order an invasion of Nicaragua because he is being humiliated in the Persian Gulf. To make up for his humiliation in the Persian Gulf, he may have no alternative but to occupy the small neighboring state of Nicaragua.

He claims that the White House and the President always support corrupt and rejected individuals who have been discarded by their own people. By way of illustration, he mentions the leaders of the Nicaraguan contras, who were the corrupt satanic elements ruling the country before the revolution. Today, though, they are portrayed as revolutionaries. Iran's monarchists are another example. They lost their grip on Iran through their corruption, and today they are supported by the United States. Today, in the Middle East, instead of being with the people and among the nations, we have joined hands with the shaykhs, the amirs, and those leaders whose hands are stained with the blood of innocent people. These are the official comments made by such a man as the speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. He explains the policy of the White House to the American people.

In light of this, you can understand why the United States is following such an ambiguous policy in our region, the Persian Gulf. What the Americans are doing in the Persian Gulf is unacceptable by any logic. They claim to be in favor of restoring security. However, you saw the extent of their security in the Persian Gulf when they fired on a fishing boat from Al-Shariqah and killed one of its Indian crew. He was an Indian laborer who had come all the way to Al-Shariqah to make a living. We see this as the outcome of the wise policy followed by the White House. Is it security when fishermen from Al-Shariqah announce that they are no longer safe to venture out and fish in the Persian Gulf? They say: We can no longer go fishing, as any trip is fraught with peril. When the United States wants to provide a clear justification for its actions in the Persian Gulf, it claims to be following a carrot and stick policy. This is a policy made famous by the world's bullies. It is a program of threats and enticement, which seeks to threaten and entice an opponent, and to face him with a stick in one hand and a carrot in the other.

Is this really America's policy in the Persian Gulf? If we want to give a proper description of U.S. policy, we should call it one of frightened shouts, the policy of a man who is frightened but who also yells due to his fear. When someone is terrified and sees that he has no way to save himself, he tries to save himself by shouting and yelling. This is the policy followed by the United States in the Persian Gulf.

American ships in the Persian Gulf are living through a nightmare. The best example came a couple of days ago. At that time, the United States put all its warships and tankers in the Persian Gulf on alert. It said that a mine had been found there, a mine had been discovered at night. All ships were told to stop, remain on alert, and

stay away. They gave the all clear a few hours later, and the ships were told to continue. Their crews were informed that there had been no mines, but only an old tractor tire. When a tractor tire is sighted in the Persian Gulf, it looks like a mine to them and frightens them for hours. They did the same thing with the fishing boat from Al-Shariqah. On the first day, the Americans claimed that three Iranian gunboats had approached them in a hostile manner. We warned them, but they paid no attention and continued their hostile move. We opened fire and hit one of the Iranian gunboats. Well, they were referring to us, and we knew we had no boats in the region. A day passed and it became clear that those gunboats were small fishing vessels from Al-Shariqah.

From this, one can see the truth of America's earlier claims. They used to talk about clashes with speedboats from the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and said they had fired on them; this is clear proof. [as heard] They were so close to the boat from Al-Shariqah that they hit it with machinegun fire, and even at that range, they identified it as a gunboat on the attack. This, then, is the truth behind the superpower that expects the entire world to be frightened of it and intimidated by it. This is how it acts in the Persian Gulf.

The reckless policy adopted by the United States in the Persian Gulf cannot be justified under any circumstances. It has destroyed the security of the Persian Gulf in the name of security. The United States has forcefully humiliated its friends, and for the sake of pleasing the reactionary shaykhs of the Persian Gulf it has angered a great nation like Iran. Today you see a glorious manifestation of this fury in Azadi Square. This is Mr Reagan's successful foreign policy. Even the nations of the Arab region are dissatisfied with his policy.

The Americans wanted to have their ships put in at Pakistani ports so their marines could take leave, but Pakistan did not agree. It knew that the Pakistani people would not tolerate the presence of U.S. marines in the streets of Islamabad, marines who had come to oppose the Muslim Iranian nation. The Americans have neither achieved security nor demonstrated their military might. Still less have they frightened this revolutionary nation. On the contrary, they have brought the situation to a point where our nation has decided to do what it did not do in previous years.

In the resolution issued after the demonstrations, our marchers asked the country's officials to mobilize [tajhiz] the nation and all its resources to confront U.S. aggression in the Persian Gulf. This request from our revolutionary nation was so emphatic that we should respond to it, and we will. From this very spot I announced that, in accordance with the request of our revolutionary and Muslim nation, the "Week of Preparedness to Confront U.S. Aggression in the Persian Gulf" will begin tomorrow. [shouts of approval and slogans]

The Majlis, the government, the news media, the Armed Forces, the revolutionary organizations, and all our resources should be mobilized during this week so that the United States will know that it made a big mistake, that a show of force in front of this revolutionary nation is out of place, and that this revolutionary nation will not tolerate all this ballyhoo. [shouts of approval]

We can only see one stable component in U.S. foreign policy, the old method used by colonialists, which has remained in effect. They are making use of dependencies they created for other nations and governments for their own purposes and for the sake of their own arrogant goals and aspirations. I will give you an example. You can see it in China. With great effort and after a great deal of pleading, the Americans established commercial relations with China. They made the Chinese dependent on them in certain fields, including complex computers. Now, to place the Chinese on the course of their own policy goals, they are threatening them. They have told the Chinese that if they continue their ties with Iran—relations in the arms sector, which the Americans claim they have, a relationship they do not have, but one the United States claims they do—if they continue this alleged relationship, they will not meet their technical requirements. As for Pakistan, that country has a vital strategic position for the United States in its confrontation with the Eastern superpower. This is all the more true since Iran was liberated from U.S. domination, and especially since Afghanistan was occupied. Thus, the United States has given high priority to Pakistan, yet we see that in order to impose its wishes on that nation, it cut off the $4 billion in aid that it had promised, and placed its friend in a position of hardship to implement its bullying policies.

America is following the same policy toward the Europeans. England is dependent on the United States, France is dependent on the United States, Belgium is dependent on the United States. Without U.S. support they will be vulnerable to the Russians. They are also dependent in terms of industry and finance. The United States has dragged them, blind and bewildered, into the Sea of Oman and the Persian Gulf. It has humiliated them and put them in a position of disgrace, dependency, and abjectness.

The United States is implementing the same policy toward those Arabs that act as its servants. It forced Kuwait to request the American flag for its tankers, and you have seen the consequences this policy has had for Kuwait. It has lost its security and seen its great oil facility destroyed, all due to the imposed U.S. presence.

They compelled Saudi Arabia to commit its great crime during the hajj and today the Saudis see that all their bridges to the revolutionary Iranian nation are destroyed. It has been afflicted by the United States with the calamity it has always sought to avoid. Now it is the turn of Iran and other places.

The policy of coercion by making other countries dependent is an old one. The Americans have used it in the past, as well. Now they think that by imposing an embargo on the Islamic Republic of Iran they can pressure the Islamic Republic. They did it at the start of the revolution, too. At that time, we had little experience. We were not yet in full control of the national administration. In those days we had yet to take our great steps toward military and economic self-sufficiency. Those very policies of embargo forced us to follow the path of self-sufficiency and today we see its results. The U.S. embargo can be a blessing to a nation if it is ready to endure temporary hardships in exchange for a long-term honorable existence in the future. This is something we know, implement, and welcome.

One can see many contradictions in their policies. They always urge the oil-producing countries not to use their commercial relations and oil as political weapons against Israel. However, we see that today they employ oil, dollars, computers, and all their commercial capabilities to achieve their vile aims. This is the best example of a lack of policy. This is a sign of contradiction. This is a sign of confused policies and proof that their policies lack any genuine basis.

In any case, we express our thanks to our dear nation, which has filled all of Iran with its revolutionary slogans. It has shown the United States that in the 9 years the revolution has endured, our nation has become more firm in its path. It has demonstrated that not only is it unaffected by America's policy of intimidation, but that, on the contrary, it has grown stronger, more resistant, more steadfast, and more combative. We should show examples of this resolve at the front.

Meanwhile, we should get ready to give the main answer to the United States on the battlefields against the Iraqi Ba'thists, who were the main motive for America's presence at the front. I have just received a report noting that an enemy aircraft has been shot down in the southern part of the country and that its pilot, Captain (Jasim Hasan), has been taken prisoner by our fighters. [shouts of support]

At the end of my speech, I would like to thank our dear nation and those who organized these ceremonies, but especially our illustrious leader, to whom we owe all these gains. I also honor the memory of our martyred students on Students Day, and offer my thanks to the students following the line of the imam [title given to students who occupied the U.S. Embassy in Tehran] who, with their revolutionary move, delivered that deadly blow to the United States.

I entrust you to God. God willing, as the result of our steadfastness, we will be a victorious and successful nation.

May God's greetings and blessings be upon you.

Navy To Assist Vessels Under U.S. Attack

LD041207 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Iranian naval units will rush to the assistance of merchant vessels and oil tankers attacked by U.S. naval units in the Persian Gulf, regardless of their nationality and provided they want assistance. Following the U.S. forces' attack on a Al-Shariqah-owned cargo launch in the international waters of the Persian Gulf, the War Information Headquarters supervisor said in an IRNA interview that in order to expand its military presence in the Persian Gulf, the United States intends to disrupt shipping in international waters. The attack on a civilian launch with an Indian crew may be regarded as the beginning of this phase of U.S. aggression.

The War Information Headquarters supervisor warned the U.S. rulers and said: The fighters of Islam will not remain silent over U.S. disruptive and tension-fomenting actions. He added: Should merchant vessels or oil tankers be attacked by the United States in the Persian Gulf and seek assistance from our naval units, the naval units of the Islamic Republic of Iran will rush to their assistance. The aggressive United States will then be responsible for the consequences of whatever incident may ensue.

Majlis Speaker Comments on U.S. 'Confusion'

LD040709 Tehran IRNA in English 0703 GMT 4 Nov 87

["Speaker: U.S. Now Killing Time, Hopeful That Fervor Will Fizzle Out"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Majlis Speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here Tuesday that Washington is now trying to kill time and gradually blunt the revolutionary fervor in Iran. He said that Iran's Muslim people should counter this U.S. scheme and enter the battle scene determinedly since the situation does not warrant any further respite to Iran's enemies.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani who was talking to a group of visiting sub-commanders of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) said Washington is now acting out of confusion in its encounter with the Islamic revolution doing things which backfires on the United States. He said one such instance was the U.S. hitting of an Iranian oil rig in the Persian Gulf last month which brought in its wake a sudden fall in stock market prices whereby the U.S. lost at least 50 billion dollars in one single day.

The Majlis speaker said such countries as France and England which heeded U.S. calls for joining it in an economic boycott of Iran after 1980 have suffered great losses as a result of their doing so whereas other governments, such as that of the West Germany, which in their relations with Iran have followed an independent policy have made substantial gains.

The Majlis speaker said Iran's approach to the Iraq-Iran war as declared at international forums is one based on legitimate preconditions for cessation of hostilities, but noted that the Islamic Republic has already waited too long for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

Besharati Comments on UN Resolution No 598
NC031443 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0715 GMT 3 Nov 87

[From the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Excerpts] Security Council Resolution 598 has been highlighted in the news for a long time. The need for its implementation, as pointed out in the world's mass media, is just one instance of the defeat of the United States and the defeat of aggressive policies. Brother Besharati, deputy foreign minister of our Islamic homeland, was interviewed on this subject. We invite you, dear fignters, to listen to it.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Dear fighters. Today we are with Brother Besharati, deputy foreign minister of the Islamic Republic, who will comment on the issues of the day. Mr Besharati, please comment briefly on the UN Resolution 598.

[Besharati] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Greetings to the dear fighters. Greetings to you who, with your military presence on the blood-stained fronts of our Islamic homeland, have foiled all the plots of the enemies. May God grant you success and may you always carry the banner of victory on your powerful shoulders. You are a source of pride for Islam. It is you who, with your immense operations, have increased respect for Shi'ism and of Islam. We hope that God will, through your hands, add to the credibility of the Islamic Republic's system of values.

Resolution 598 was discussed and approved at the Security Council at a time when the fronts were relatively calm. The summer and the extreme heat of above 50 degrees Celsius in Khuzestan had downplayed the military operations a little bit. They seized this opportunity and wanted to give a political dimension to the war and to make a point by so doing.

Of course, there were positive, negative, and ambiguous points. Among the positive points was the fact that they wanted to introduce the Iraqi Government as the aggressor. Another positive point was Paragraph 5 on preventing countries from coming to the region to create or to increase tension. However, other positive points were that this resolution was approved at a time when the United States had resorted to the utmost of grudges in order to compile a one-sided resolution, which was totally opposed to us. However, the non-permanent members of the Security Council, especially Ghana, as well as the Congo and some other permanent members, rose to our defense. This nonconformity in the Security Council marked a defeat for the United States. The United States was not very pleased to see this resolution approved. Therefore, it wanted a second resolution that would place us under full military siege and under an arms embargo.

Resolutions are discussed and approved usually at a time when there are no ongoing military activities. Now that a favorable situation has arisen and you, dear ones, are experiencing better conditions, and God Almighty has granted you great favors, the extensive U.S. presence in the region has been completely defeated. They have lost their credibility. The United States—full-fledged enemy of this land, people, and culture—is suffering political, military, psychological, and economic defeat. The time has come for you to complete your victories for the benefit of Islam and to add yet another defeat to the defeats suffered by arrogance and by your full-fledged enemies.

I want to tell you something that I just remembered so that you, the dear ones at the fronts, will realize how great your credibility is. Whenever you do something, many delegations come to our country to render a political aspect to a serious military struggle. However, whenever you accomplish less on the fronts, for one reason or another, these efforts by the delegations also stop, and our enemies start hatching new plots. Therefore, you should fight, advance, defend, open a new front, and make your enemy feel unsafe, in order to neutralize and disappoint them. Do not let those who have today occupied the holy shrine of Imam Husayn and have deprived everyone of the privilege of paying a pilgrimage to this shrine, to continue their acts. [passage omitted on the significance of Imam Husayn's shrine]

Today, our people are independent; they think of God's power. We have a Muslim, talented, and extremely intelligent people. Our country holds an important, strategic position and is extremely rich in natural resources. We can export gas for the next 300 years and oil for the next 90 years. We have many rich mines and resources. Recently, two immense gold mines have been found in this country and very soon, God willing, news on this will be published by those in charge. What do we need the superpowers for? We have culture, history, religion and devoted, selfless and God-seeking people. We have varied climatic conditions in our country. Until now, with God's help, we have had all these magnificent things which no other country has. If we maintain our pride in all this—and we must emerge as victors from this war, teach a lesson to our full-fledged enemies, and overthrow the warmongering Iraqi regime—we will see what kind of country we will rebuild with God's strength, and the grace of the imam of the ages, and the people's full support, and how this country will become an example for others. All this can be achieved only through the efforts of each and everyone of you. Make sacrifices, fight, advance, be strong. The powers standing in front of you are paper tigers. Power belongs to you. Power

belongs to someone who believes in God. Absolute power belongs to God. However, honor belongs to God and His apostle, and to the believers. [preceding two sentences Koranic verses].

[Corrrespondent] Thank you very much. May you be successful. [end recording]

Officials View Gulf Incidents, U.S. Actions

PM040835 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
20 Oct 87 pp 2, 18

[First of two-part unattributed report on interviews with Iranian officials on latest incidents in the Persian Gulf; dates and places as specified]

[Excerpts] Mas'ud Zanjani, minister of planning and budget, talked about the results and consequences of the lastest U.S. attacks. With regard to the presence of American forces and those of their allies and the recent clashes in the Persian Gulf—the U.S. attack against the *Iran-Ajr* and the U.S. helicopter gunship attacks on Iranian speedboats—the United States pretended that it has been able to defend the reactionary regimes during this period.

With the latest attack against American ships, the United States has been placed in a weak position. It has become clear that safeguarding security in the Persian Gulf, despite all the facilities that have been provided there, is impossible. Naturally, the shaykhs, who also seek security for themselves behind the United States, will find themselves in a shakier position. On the other hand, internal differences have become more pronounced in the United States. Groups who believe there is no reason for the United States to be in this region have applied pressure to the Reagan administration.

The minister of planning and budget then answered another question on the probability of a U.S. attack against Iran. The United States wants to reach its goals with a minimum loss of life and with minimum cost. These goals include preventing the Iraqi regime's defeat, controlling the Islamic Revolution, making up for the loss of face in the McFarlane affair, strengthening the U.S. presence in the region, and strengthening its own aggressive rule. There is no chance for a prolonged engagement due to the extreme vulnerability of the U.S. forces, strong opposition from within the United States and among its European allies, and finally, because the American people will not tolerate the loss of its soldiers. In addition, the United States by its actions will increase the will of the Iranian people against world aggressors.

Because the stability of the Islamic Revolution has become a certainty for the United States, because it knows the revolution will not be defeated, it realizes that if it carries out its threats, it will be forced to carry out limited actions. These actions will be aimed primarily at maintaining U.S. prestige and announced U.S. policies in the Persian Gulf. They will also help Iraq's military maneuvers.

Suppose the United States wanted to enter the action on a wider scale, this would mean it would have to deploy troops in the region. This step would have a terrible effect on the policies of these countries' reactionary rulers as far as their own people are concerned. This issue would destroy their so-called independence and would automatically increase popular actions against the regimes in these countries. On the other hand, it would increase the pressure by the progressive and popular governments and forces in the world against the United States and its policies.

Mr Zanjani then answered a question on what Iran's reaction would be if the U.S. threats are carried out: Iran must deliver a shattering blow in answer to any possible U.S. attacks. It must deliver blows to the aggressors' interests anywhere and must eliminate peace and stability for the aggressors throughout the world. This is quite possible for the Islamic Revolution because of the strong resistance of the Iranian Muslim people and because followers of the Islamic Revolution are represented in most corners of the world.

In reality, it this happens, the true face of the 7-year-old war imposed on us by the United States will become clear. The truth is that Iran has been fighting against the United States for the past 7 years. In any case, the martyr-raising nation has prepared itself for this confrontation.

Education Minister Seyyed Kazem Akrami said that the United States has come to this region to stop Islam. He also commented: Our top-level officials have always said that if the foreign powers prevent us from exporting our oil, we will confront them. This is our long-standing argument: free export of oil and navigation for all or for no one.

The education minister then commented on the political and military duties of the Islamic Republic in the face of attacks by the United States: Our people and our government are ready to give a crushing answer to the United States. We must answer the United States sternly. Now is the time for Muslim revolutionaries to attack U.S. interests throughout the world. [passge omitted]

Prime Minister Engineer Musavi took part in an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Damascus yesterday afternoon. He said the U.S. raid on an Iranian oil platform was a clear aggression. He said it was the continuation of the policy of fear and a new step to engage the Islamic Republic on a wider scale, both in the Persian Gulf and throughout the world.

[*Keyhan*] What do you think about the latest U.S. attack?

[Musavi] We do not think this attack will impose anything on us. If something happens, we will not tolerate it only within our borders. Just as they have stepped outside their borders, we see it as our natural right to respond throughout the world and to the limit of our capacity.

[*Keyhan*] The strategy of Iraq and some other regional countries was to draw the United States into the Persian Gulf, thereby lessening Iran's military pressure on Iraq. Can the Islamic Republic give a severe answer to U.S. aggressions in terms of getting rid of the fleets in the Persian Gulf, as well as carry out actions against the Iraqi regime on the ground?

[Musavi] We will not forget the war against Iraq under any circumstances. We will show in terms of our actions what our answer to this strategy will be. The U.S. presence has two aspects: The first step is to save Saddam. If it cannot do that, the next stage would be to interfere in the alternatives for Iraq.

The United States is trying as a first step to maintain Saddam and, if Washington feels that Saddam willbe defeated, it wants to be there to choose his successor. Some 80 U.S. and NATO warships are in the Persian Gulf so that if the Iraqi regime is toppled, they can intervene to choose a successor for Saddam. The U.S. excuse of guarding tankers is hollow. The situation of the tankers passing through is much worse now than when the United States was not there.

[*Keyhan*] We have three different analyses of the situation in the Persian Gulf. One is that the United States, seeing Iran's superiority in ground warfare and the possibility of the downfall of the Iraqi regime, sent its fleet and those of other NATO countries to guarantee the changing of power in Iraq if there was any danger. The second point is that it is quite possible that the United States has adopted the strategy of separating Iran's strategic areas from the country in order to deprive Iran forever of its vital areas. The third analysis is that it is possible that the U.S. fleet is in the Persian Gulf to enforce UN Resolution No 598. If Iran rejects the resolution, then it can lay siege to Iran from all sides and by sea. Which one of these points seems more logical to you?

[Musavi] Of course, I do not know what goes on in the minds of American politicians. However, the U.S presence in the Gulf seems to point to support for Saddam. The information that we have indicates that their internal situation is very turbulent. This is in line with the other U.S. aims.

Now, with regard to taking over Khuzestan Province for example, this is not possible. It seems unlikely that they would follow such a plan. The other issue is economic sanctions, and this a possibility. Of course, if this is what Washington thinks, it has not resolved this issue—the Islamic Revolution will never surrender, and it will attack if they attack.

Of course, they have drawn red lines for themselves that they cannot cross. They completely agree that we have some influence in the Islamic world. Today, when I met with Syrian and Lebanese groups, I felt that the U.S. intervention has created strong reaction among them. This can cause problems for the United States. [passage omitted]

Sayyid Husayn Musawi—Abu Hisham—leader of the Islamic Amal movement in Lebanon, took part in an exclusive interview with the *Keyhan* correspondent in Damascus. He stated: The Muslims of the region will spread the war against U.S. imperialism do all parts of the region ,as well as to the rest of the world.

[*Keyhan*] Why did the United States start military aggression against Iran under these circumstances?

[Abu Hisham] Following the success of the Islamic Revolution, the United States felt that the Iranian Islamic Revolution posed a major threat against Western interests. [passage omitted]

[*Keyhan*] What will be the reaction of the revolutionary Muslims in the region in the face of U.S. aggression against Iran?

[Abu Hisham] Most of the region's Muslims follow the leadership of Imam Khomeyni. If a full-scale war breaks our, all the region's revolutionary Muslims undoubtedly will spread their anti-imperialist war not only in the region but throughout the world. The United States must forget that there are the likes of Khalid al-Islambuli in Egypt and Ahmad Qasir in Lebanon and other children of Islam elsewhere. The fate of U.S. imperialism in this area will be no less that the fate of Al-Sadat in Egypt or the U.S. Marines in Beirut.

[*Keyhan*] Do you not think the U.S. aggression against Iran's Islamic Revolution will spread in the wake of actions by the region's revolutionaries?

[Abu Hisham] The Muslims in Lebanon have proven that they are able to stand against the United States, France, and Israel. At present, we are commemorating the anniversary of the martyrdom of the brave heroes of Lebanon, who blew up the French and American Marine headquarters in Beirut. They had come to help Abu al-Jumayyil, who is an Israeli mercenary. However, the Muslims of Lebanon proved that they could stand against the United States and its mercenaries in Lebanon.

This is why we can guarantee that if there is a prolonged American war against Iran, we can witness the repeat of Lebanon's events in a vast area of strategic regions and U.S. interests in this zone.

We have to realize the fact that the entire heretic world is standing against the entire force of Islam. Therefore, all Muslims must revolt against imperialistic heresy and Zionism. We ask all the young people in Arab Middle East to join ranks with the mujahidin. They should not be delayed so that they may achieve the grace of God and determine the fate of the United States.

Further Comments by Officials

PM040841 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
24 Oct 87 pp 18-19

[Second of two-part unattributed report on interviews with officials on latest incidents in the Persian Gulf; dates and places as specified]

[Excerpts] Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahmud Marvi, head of the Majlis Foreign Relations Committee, commented on the U.S. attacks against Iran: We knew from the beginning that the United States had come to the Persian Gulf to attack, and not for show. How far these attacks will spread will depend on the resistance of the attacker. We do not think the United States has the will to resist; this will not be in its favor. The American people have bitter memories of Vietnam and cannot bear another bitter memory.

[*Keyhan*] Will the United States enter a full-scale war against us?

[Marvi] From the time the United States entered the Persian Gulf, we announced that a confrontation would be very sweet for us. We do not believe the United States has the strength to withstand a widespread war. Our warriors, with their readiness, will push the Americans' noses in the dirt.

Marvi then commented on the correct way to mobilize the people: To mobilize the people, we must go to the imam. If he gives the sign, the people will enter the scene with all their might. However, the imam has not yet asked the people for anything new. All in all, from the start of the war, we relied mostly on the weapon of belief in the peoples' will. In this regard, we do not feel limited. We can threaten U.S. interests everywhere.

We do not think the situation in the Persian Gulf is in the interest of the United States. It is true that the Americans and their allies have entered the Persian Gulf, but they do not appear to be making any kind of preparations. In any case, the situation in the Persian Gulf is not serious. With our facilities, we will make their position perilous. [passage omitted]

Brigadier General Esma'il Sohrabi, chief of the Joint Staff of the Islamic Republic of Iran, gave this reply to our question: Officials of the Islamic Republic have announced many times that our country has made no threat toward Kuwait. We demand that this country stop its widespread support for the warmongering regime of Iraq and announce its neutrality.

It is certain that the United States is using the escorting of Kuwaiti tankers as an excuse to increase its military presence in the area. This truth leads us to other illegitimate goals. From the trend of events, one can make a list of U.S. priorities: to thwart a final victory by the Islamic Republic in the imposed war, to restore its lost prestige, to strengthen its influence in the region, and to make a show of force to encourage the reactionaries to commit acts of hostility against the Islamic Republic. [passage omitted]

Answering another question, Sohrabi said: The results of the raids on U.S. ships, from whatever direction, indicate that the U.S. Navy is vulnerable—despite all the praise for it, which is only aimed at causing fear. This itself is a warning to the aggressive regime in the United States and a sign of the illogical thinking of its officials. The missile attacks must have placed the Americans in a dilemma, one which they themselves created upon entering this region with a widespread military presence. One alternative is a realistic look at the vulnerability of the forces and at the possibility of mounting casualties and damages linked with any major military confrontation. This would lead to a disgraceful withdrawal from this area.

The other alternative is increased adventurism as a joke, a show of superpower force. [passage omitted]

The complete readiness of the Islamic Republic to answer any U.S. aggression will drag the United States into extended hostilities—if it attacks—and will place U.S. interests in the area at serious risk. Despite all these possibilities, aggressive actions by the Americans, such as the raid on the Reshadat oil platforms yesterday, are the results of the illogical policies and adventurist ideas that dominate the White House and the warmongering policies of the Reagan administration. One can expect more mischief from this country and more chaos in the security of the Persian Gulf. [passage omitted]

Mohammad Sahafi, spokesman and head of public relations at the Oil Ministry, answered this question: Can one view the aim of the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf as the safeguarding of Kuwaiti interests?

[Sahafi] The real nature of U.S. imperialism is aggression and expansionism. All in all, the show of superpower superiority that the United States has found for itself in the world through trickery relies on this special character of the U.S. leaders. Regarding the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf, it was obvious from the beginning that the United States had entered the region

like a wounded animal, with the aim of widespread confrontation with Iran. Kuwait and other shaykhdoms in the area are too small to face the United States' aggressive presence. They are nothing but weak excuses. In addition, Kuwait's invitation to the United States is simply a trick to stop the public protests against the U.S. leadership at home.

[*Keyhan*] What are the results of the latest U.S. raids in the Persian Gulf?

[Sahafi] The results of these actions without doubt are increasing tension in the region. This allegedly is something the United States is trying to refute. It seems that if the United States continues these dastardly acts, Islamic Republic officials will make a final decision. Then there will be nothing left for the Americans or the puppet shaykhs in the Persian Gulf.

The spokesman for the Oil Ministry concluded his remarks by talking about Iran's reaction against the United States' clear aggression. He said: The United States has directly attacked Iran's economic installations and accepted responsibility for it. As a revolutionary people defending Islam's banner, we have no choice but to give a stern reply to the aggressive U.S. forces. Now that the Americans have attacked our territory, our officials should not leave them alone. The Americans should quickly suffer the consequences of their major mistake.

The bitter consequence of the thought that "if we speak loudly to the Iranians, they will pull back" should be brought home to the Americans as soon as possible. On the political level, the heavy duty falls on the Islamic Republic of Iran's representatives abroad. They must use everything they have to identify the criminal face of the United States, particularly in view of U.S. public opinion. If the American people understand that their leaders have entered dangerous adventures in the Persian Gulf, a step quite against their interests, they will put pressure on the White House. [passage omitted]

IRGC Minister, Others Address Student Groups

LD032022 Tehran IRNA in English 1828 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—The U.S. military presence in the Persian Gulf is a bid to save Saddam (Husayn), said Minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust here today. But keeping the Persian Gulf situation tense will not deviate Iran's thoughts from the Iraqi-imposed war, he added emphatically.

Speaking to a students basij forces' gathering here Tuesday, the IRGC minister stressed that Saddam's defeat is in fact a defeat for the U.S. Iran's navy and the IRGC Naval Forces are ready to answer the hostilities of the U.S. and also fight against the Ba'thist enemy at the same time, he added.

Also speaking at the gathering was Minister of Education Kazem Akrami who said the U.S. will undoubtedly be a loser in its encounter with Iranian youths, especially students. The Persian Gulf will surely be a graveyard for Ronald Reagan and his Yankees, he added.

Deputy Minister of Education for War Affairs Br. Katiraei [name as received] was another lecturer who said the Iranian students have been always present at the war fronts. They (students) are now prepared to thwart plots hatched by the global arrogance in the Persian Gulf, he emphasised.

A resoluton was issued by the students at the end of the gathering in which they renewed their allegiance to Imam Khomeyni, the leader of the Islamic Revolution and announced their readiness to fight against the U.S. and the Ba'thist enemy, simultaneously.

Khamene'i Receives New Finnish Ambassador

LD032117 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Our next report is about the presentation of credentials by the new Finnish ambassador in Tehran to President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

This morning President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i received the New Finnish ambassador to the Islamic Republic of Iran who presented his credentials. During the ceremony, the Finnish ambassador referred to the good bilateral relations in the political, economic, and trade fields. He stressed the need, especially in recent years, to strengthen existing bilateral ties. He voiced his hopes for increased expansion of relations and cooperation between the two countries.

In conclusion, he referred to the fact that, as a neutral country, Finland has always shunned military cooperation pacts and alliances, as well as encounters between the superpowers. He said that by expanding good relations with all the countries, Finland has tried to establish security. He then wished lasting peace to the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Then President Khamene'i welcomed the expanding trend in bilateral relations. He said: We have always welcomed peace, tranquillity, and security based on correct and just pillars in the region. Unfortunately, interference in the Persian Gulf region by the United States and a number of Western countries has further complicated the situation here, and therefore has made the situation more difficult. This is because the military presence of the United States and its aggression in the region has in practice expanded a war which was limited to the frontiers of the two countries of Iran and Iraq to an international zone.

He said that naturally, any measure aimed at restoring security to this region must be coupled with the full departure of the U.S. and other foreign forces from the Persian Gulf.

The president stressed the fact that if, from the outset of the war, the big powers had not supported Iraq, the problem of war would have been definitely resolved by now. He said: Interference by the big powers in any affair has invariably been coupled with insecurity, chaos, and warmongering. Today, the best example of this can be seen in the aggressive U.S. presence in the region.

Velayati, Others Receive Swiss Official
LD031938 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov 3, IRNA—Switzerland's Foreign Ministry Director-General for Political Affairs Alfred Ruegg met Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and presented him a message from his Swiss counterpart Pierre Aubert, here Tuesday.

Ruegg stressed on frequent meetings between Iranian and Swiss officials and extended an invitation to Velayati to visit that country.

In response, the Iranian minister welcomed expansion of Tehran-Berne relations in various areas, emphasising on exchange of visits between the two countries' authorities.

The Swiss official also conferred today separately with Deputy Foreign Ministers for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam and for Cultural and Consulate Affairs Javad Mansuri and his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Ahani on issues of mutual interest.

The Swiss official arrived here Sunday night on a three-day official visit and was accorded a warm welcome by Foreign Ministry officials at Mehrabad International Airport.

Amman Summit Viewed as 'Hostile' to Republic
NC032035 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Political commentary]

[Text] The Arab reactionaries are accelerating their efforts to convene and ensure the success of the Amman summit meeting, which is scheduled to be held on Sunday [8 November]. There is no doubt that the special circumstances surrounding this summit, which is being held close to the U.S. fleets and the battlefront in the northern Persian Gulf, makes it different from preceding ones. These circumstances could give an indication of the nature of the talks.

For the first time in the history of Arab summits, the Palestinian issue and the Zionist aggression against the Muslims in Palestine do not head the agenda. Even if this issue comes up during the discussions—a likely step so that no one will blame the conferees for ignoring such a fundamental topic—it will be a marginal subject. The primary motive for convening this summit is the (?weakness) of Saddam's regime. The ultimate goal of the Arab reactionaries is to rescue Saddam's regime from imminent collapse. This is true as this issue is of utmost importance for reactionary circles, outweighing all other causes, including the Palestinian issue. The latter issue is now at a watershed, with the occupied territories shaken by a large-scale popular uprising marking the anniversary of the ill-fated Balfour Declaration. In defiance of the Zionist enemy, the Palestinians angrily took to the streets, pelting their enemies with stones and Molotov coktails.

The Amman summiteers should devote all their time to studying ways to benefit from these developments and to expend all their energy and efforts to the goal of liberation. It would be an act of high treason toward the Palestinian people's cause and toward the entire Islamic nation if an Arab summit, attended by most Arab leaders, would choose to disregard that issue or to give it short shrift. The degree of treason would be further augmented should the summit be turned into a platform hostile to the Islamic Republic, which has put the Palestinian cause high on its list of policy priorities, objectives, and future plans.

In fact, this summit has sided with the United States and Israel, instead of taking the opposing position. It is America and Israel who want to abandon the Palestinian issue and turn it from a top-piority to a low-priority subject. It is also America and Israel who want the Arab regimes to adopt a unified position opposed to the Islamic Republic, because the latter takes the lead in the Islamic world against those two countries. Ignoring the issue of the Zionist aggression against the Palestinian people and disregarding the aggressive U.S. military intervention in the Persian Gulf can be justified only as an act of treason and agentry on behalf of America and Israel. Furthermore, readmitting Mubarak's regime into the Arab ranks is another act of treason. The bottom line of all these three themes, all intermingled in this summit, is the adoption of a standpoint hostile to Islam and the Islamic Republic.

Tehran Warns Gulf States Against U.S. Alliance
LD021458 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 2 Nov 87

[Excerpts] After arriving in Amman from Cairo yesterday, British Foreign Secretary Howe again pointed out the need for action by the USSR in support of Britain, France, and the United States at the UN Security Council. Noting a proposal from the Soviet leadership calling for the withdrawal of NATO units from the Persian Gulf and their replacement by UN forces, he explicitly stated that the Russians have no right to do this. After all, he

said, a proposal for a UN naval task force to patrol the Persian Gulf requires thorough and detailed study, and was severely criticized by the Russians. [passage omitted]

Obviously, these harsh comments from the British foreign secretary on the Soviet proposal precisely reflect the Reagan administration's desire to keep NATO forces in the Persian Gulf united within the American command structure. After a period of expansion, the way would be open for a series of aggressive and illegal moves in support of Iraq's criminal regime. This is particularly obvious given recent clear stands adopted by the British and French Governments on this issue. Any disruption of the unity among these forces would undoubtedly cause problems for the Reagan administration in its actions and its treatment of opposition to its military moves.

There are currently more than 40 American vessels in the Persian Gulf, and a total of 80 foreign ships. Furthermore, the entire range of positions taken coincides with some comments from Vernon Walters, the U.S. representative at the United Nations. He was talking once again of the need for a series of moves to punish the Islamic Republic of Iran. At the same time, the U.S. and British Governments are working together to prepare suitable grounds to justify hostile actions, including an arms embargo, against the Islamic Republic of Iran. However, such foolish illusions and calculations by Western governments—in reality, military action by NATO forces in the Persian Gulf—as well as talk of such threats as an arms embargo and economic sanctions, will lead to nothing but greater cohesion and unity among the Muslim people of Iran.

Undoubtedly, as shown in recent months, the present situation in the Persian Gulf is such that the presence of foreign forces there will not be tolerated by Muslim nations or Iran's revolutionary government. In addition, their continued presence will, in effect, foster a crisis, which may lead to an extensive military engagement. The states along the shores of the Persian Gulf must refrain from encouraging and provoking the Western countries. They must also avoid any all-around cooperation with the U.S. forces so as not to tie their future to that of the doomed regime in Iraq. After all, the experience of Lebanon has shown that when a conflict increases and opposition within the United States and Europe grows, the Reagan administration will be forced to retreat. Undoubtedly, at that point, the treatment Muslim nations give governments that have been the true inciters of the crisis will be very different from that of the precrisis era.

The states along the shores of the Persian Gulf should consider the problem posed by foreign forces in the Gulf. They should escape the self-made trap by reviewing their old policies. In addition, the Western governments, especially the United States, must remember the restraint shown by the Islamic Republic of Iran in the face of a massive military buildup and recognize that preparations to achieve the Reagan administration's objectives will have hard and dangerous consequences for them.

Commentary Views Attack on Al-Ahmadi Platform
NC031309 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0615 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Unattributed commentary from the "Voice of the Front" program]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The United States wants to achieve its objectives of preventing the defeat of the Iraqi regime, restraining the Islamic revolution in order to repair the damages done by the McFarlane incident, stabilizing its presence in the region, and establishing its arrogant diktat there, at as little cost to itself as possible. The reasons for this are its inability to become involved in a long conflict because of the extreme vulnerability of its forces, the danger of increased opposition within the U.S. Administration and from its European allies, and, ultimately, the American people's reaction to any losses that might be sustained. Moreover, by undertaking further action, the United States is strengthening the general mobilization against it in Iran. Tomorrow, 4 November, the United States will see evidence of this; it will see our people more determined than ever to struggle against it. Since the arch Satan knows for sure that the Islamic Revolution has been stabilized and that it is impossible to break the revolution, it is inevitable that if it carries out its threats it will restrict itself to limited acts. However, the United States may be sure that it will be defeated by Islamic Iran and that victory belongs to the Muslim and heroic Iranian people.

Today U.S. grandeur has been shattered by the blows inflicted on a tanker and on the Al-Ahmadi oil platform in Kuwait, which is under U.S. protection. The world is seeing how this criminal of the century is in a panic. The Islamic Revolution of Iran gave a powerful answer to all the U.S. plots by hitting the tanker under U.s. protection, as well as the Al-Ahmadi oil platforms.

From now on, the United States should also know that it cannot threaten anything more than what has been happening in the 8-year war. In short, the United States has reached the end of the line and wants to avenge itself on us. However, it should know that this nation will never be defeated. It should start thinking of ways to leave the Persian Gulf because the superpowers will not be safe from the rage of the world's oppressed and deprived masses. Our nation, and especially our Armed Forces and the martyrdom-seeking Basijis, have announced their readiness to carry out martyrdom-seeking operations against the enemy in various petitions. At the present time, they are counting the moments and waiting for orders to attack the United States in the Persian Gulf. It should also be noted that the imam's decree led to the formation of the Basij and

the 20-million strong army in order to confront a possible U.S. attack, and now that the United States has entered the arena itself, the selfless Basijis—more experienced than ever before after 8 years of war—are waiting for a decree so that they can hit the aggressive U.S. forces in the Persian Gulf like divine thunderbolts.

Dear fighters, with your united presence on the front line of the battlefields tomorrow, 4 November, you will once again show that you are always present on every scene to fight against the United States and the plots and machinations of this arch Satan.

Funds Allocated for War Reconstruction Projects

LD032323 Tehran IRNA in English 1807 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Shiraz, Nov. 3, IRNA—The Cabinet has allocated 130 billion rials (dlrs. 1.8 billion) for reconstruction of war-stricken areas and lodging and employment of war refugees, announced deputy prime minister for executive affairs Hamid Mirzadeh here today.

Speaking at a research gathering for reconstruction, Mirzadeh said the government with people's cooperation has so far re-built some 74,000 houses and shops, destroyed or damaged in the course of the Iraq-imposed war.

The government has marhsalled most of its potentials to reconstruct the war-stricken areas, since such a task should be accomplished concurrently with the sacred defence, as a symbol of Iran's resistance and thwarting of enemy plots, he remarked.

Meanwhile, housing and urban development minister Serajeddin Kazeruni explained to the gathering the policies for expediting reconstruction activities.

Reconstruction is a basic plan in order to meet military needs and pressing political issues on hand, as well as strengthening development programmes of the country in the long run, he concluded.

Technical, Service Troops Depart for Fronts

NC030810 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] On the eve of 4 November, the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. nest of spies, a large group of technical and service forces left for the fronts from Hamadan. Also during the past 2 days, many groups, consisting of technical and service forces, left for the battlefields from the Gilan and Esfahan Provinces and from Mashhad and Khorramabad.

Combat Operations Against Iraq Continue

Communique No 3,009

LD031629 Tehran IRNA in English 1607 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—Iraqi forces sustained heavy losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts in artillery duels with Muslim forces of Iran Monday, said a military communique here Tuesday.

Communique Number 3009, released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said that an Iraqi watch tower on the coast of Al-Faw peninsula, southern Iraq, suffered heavy losses by Iranian coastal artillery fire yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie forces shelled Iraqi positions in parts of the southern fronts Monday, killing or wounding a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze at least ten gun emplacements and three light and heavy vehicles of theirs.

Heavy Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from setting up embankments, communication canals or observation posts in Anjirah, Yebis, Bejliyeh, Pich-e Angizeh and Sharhani, southern sector, Monday, inflicting several casualties on the enemy.

Iraqi troops suffered several casualties and seven enemy tanks and two mortar launchers were destroyed in Helaleh and other western theaters Monday by Iranian artillery fire.

An Iraqi patrol convoy was hit by Iranian artillery fire in Kharratha theater before carrying out any mission Monday as a result of which enemy patrols incurred some casualties and were forced to flee.

Artillery fire of Iranian combatants checked movements of Iraqi armored and vehicle columns in Anjireh, Zurbatiyah, Nahr 'Anbar and north of Hur al-Azim, northwesterr and southern sectors, Monday, inflicting substantial losses on enemy troops, concluded the communique.

IRGC-Kurdish Ambush Kills 20

LD031935 Tehran IRNA in English 1810 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 3, IRNA—At least 20 Iraqi soldiers were killed and wounded and four non-commissioned officers captured when Muslim combatants of Zafar Brigade 75 of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) along with Kurdish Peshmergas twice ambushed enemy troops on Dukan-Al-Sulaymaniyah highway on Oct. 30.

Announcing the above, Ramadhan headquarters said that the Muslim combatants destroyed two Iraqi vehicles and seized another two intact along with several light guns, in their hit-and-run ambush. The combatants returned to their bases safely it added.

Meanwhile, Iraqi mujahideen attacked a Ba'thist military vehicle in Al- Sulaymaniyah with a hand grenade over the past few days. Nine Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded when the vehicle exploded.

Iraqi Plane Downed in Kordestan

LD040815 Tehran IRNA in English 0810 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] Tehran, Nov. 4, IRNA—Iranian anti-aircraft fire shot down an Iraqi warplane in Kordestan border region at 10:10 hours local time (06:40 GMT) Wednesday. The Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran announced that the pilot of the warplane has been captured.

Sri Lanka

Indians Continue Jaffna Area Operations

Relief Work in 'Full Swing'

BK301615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 30 Oct 87

[Text] Relief and rehabilitation measures by the peacekeeping force are in full swing in Jaffna. The peacekeeping force is working around the clock to restore normal power supply to the city with the help of local engineers. An official spokesman said today that generators will be flown to Jaffna from India for ensuring uninterrupted power supply to essential establishments. The spokesman said that the curfew relaxation period from 0800 to 1200 noon today passed off peacefully. About 400 tons of relief supplies from the Indian ship *Island Glory* were unloaded at Kankesanthurai. Another ship with 500 tons of relief supplies will sail from Madras port within 2 days. The peacekeeping force is continuously patrolling the Jaffna Peninsula to prevent LTTE from laying mines on the roads. The spokesman said link patrols have been established for the purpose.

The peacekeeping force discovered an arms explosive dump in an area between Jaffna bus stand and the civil hospital yesterday. In Batticaloa, a hard-core LTTE militant leader, Mr Balasubramaniam, has been apprehended.

Civil Servants Returning

BK031624 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 3 Nov 87

[Text] In Jaffna, normal life has been partially restored and curfew was relaxed for 6 hours today also. An official spokesman said in New Delhi this evening, besides providing relief and medical aid, the peacekeeping force [PKF] is now concentrating on problems like electricity and water supply. The force has flown in three generator sets and a 200-line telephone exchange.

The spokesman described the return of a large number of local civil servants as heartening. He said after Jaffna was freed the LTTE men have fled and dispersed in many directions. They are holding the civilians to ransom and are trying to forcibly recruit them as their cadre. There are reports that the local population in Mullai, about 20 km northwest of Jaffna, have resisted their attempts. They were shot at when they prevented the LTTE men from laying mines. The peacekeeping force landed army and naval commandos in the area as the advancing PKF personnel came under heavy fire from the LTTE. According to reports, 25 LTTE men have been killed and a large quantity of arms and ammunition captured. Operations were continuing when last reports came in.

In the eastern province of Batticaloa, 4 LTTE men were killed and 15 apprehended by the force. The PKF also recovered 50 kg of explosives and a large number of land mines. The spokesman said intelligence reports indicate that the LTTE cadre are showing signs of desperation. Referring to the cease-fire offer, he said this is an indication on the part of LTTE to force the local population to join its cadre and thus consolidate its position. Acceptance of this offer at this moment will be deceiving the local population, he said.

Mulai Stronghold Cleared

BK04948 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 4 Nov 87

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the peacekeeping force has further stepped up relief operations in Jaffna and the surrounding areas. The PKF doctors have provided medical aid to nearly 10,000 people in various relief camps. About 1,000 families returned to their homes yesterday. Despite the LTTE's attempt to sabotage the repair work at the (Sonakam) power station to delay restoration of power supply to Jaffna town, the PKF is making arrangements to provide electricity to important installations, including the hospital, from today.

Meanwhile, the PKF paracommandos yesterday cleared another LTTE stronghold at Mulai, northwest of Jaffna. Seven LTTE men were killed in the operation. Large quantities of arms and ammunition were recovered at the Mulai and (Navalur) areas.

Finance Minister Willing To Work Towards Peace

BK011124 Colombo VIRAKESARI in Tamil 27 Oct 87 p 1

[Text] Ronnie De Mel, the minister for finance and planning, has announced that if the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, asked him to try and end the ongoing clashes between the Indian Army and the LTTE, he would

"seriously" [preceding word in English] get involved. The finance minister made this statement to reporters at a news conference convened by him at his ministry yesterday.

He also emphatically stated: Personally, I do not favor war and military solutions. If Prabhakaran wants me involved in peace efforts, then I am ready to do so with goodwill.